***Glee*** is an American musical comedy-drama television series that airs on [Fox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company) in the United States, and on [GlobalTV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GlobalTV) in Canada. It focuses on the high school [glee club](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_club) New Directions competing on the show choir competition circuit, while its members deal with relationships, sexuality and social issues. The initial main cast encompassed club director and Spanish teacher [Will Schuester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Schuester) ([Matthew Morrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Morrison)), cheerleading coach [Sue Sylvester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sue_Sylvester) ([Jane Lynch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Lynch)), guidance counselor [Emma Pillsbury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Pillsbury) ([Jayma Mays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jayma_Mays" \o "Jayma Mays)), Will's wife [Terri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terri_Schuester) ([Jessalyn Gilsig](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jessalyn_Gilsig" \o "Jessalyn Gilsig)), and eight club members played by [Dianna Agron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianna_Agron), [Chris Colfer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Colfer), [Kevin McHale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_McHale_(actor)), [Lea Michele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lea_Michele), [Cory Monteith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory_Monteith), [Amber Riley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amber_Riley), [Mark Salling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Salling) and [Jenna Ushkowitz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenna_Ushkowitz). For the second season, formerly recurring cast members [Mike O'Malley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_O%27Malley), [Heather Morris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heather_Morris_(actress)) and [Naya Rivera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naya_Rivera) were promoted to the main cast. For the third season, [Harry Shum, Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Shum,_Jr.) and [Darren Criss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren_Criss) were promoted from recurring to the main cast, and both Gilsig and O'Malley were removed from star billing, though the latter will again be in the recurring guest cast.

The series was created by [Ryan Murphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Murphy_(writer)), [Brad Falchuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Falchuk) and [Ian Brennan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Brennan_(writer)), who first conceived *Glee* as a film. The three write all of the show's episodes and Murphy and Falchuk serve as the show's main directors. The [pilot episode](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)) was broadcast on May 19, 2009, and the [first season](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_1)) aired from September 9, 2009 to June 8, 2010. The [second season](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_2)) aired from September 21, 2010 to May 24, 2011, and the [third season](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_3)) began airing on September 20, 2011. *Glee* features on-screen performance-based musical numbers that are selected by Murphy, who aims to maintain a balance between show tunes and chart hits, and produced by [Adam Anders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Anders). Songs covered in the show are released through the [iTunes Store](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ITunes_Store) during the week of broadcast, and a series of *Glee* albums have been released by [Columbia Records](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_Records). The music of *Glee* has been a commercial success, with over thirty-six million digital single sales and eleven million album sales worldwide through October 2011. The series' merchandise also includes DVD and Blu-ray releases, a young adult book series, an iPad application, and a karaoke game for the [Wii](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wii).

During its first season, *Glee* received generally favorable reviews from critics, with [Metacritic's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metacritic) weighted average based on the impression of 18 critical reviews of 77 percent. The season was nominated for nineteen [Emmy Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmy_Award), four [Golden Globe Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Awards), six [Satellite Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellite_Awards) and fifty-seven other awards, with wins including the 2010 [Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Television_Series_%E2%80%93_Musical_or_Comedy), and Emmy awards for Jane Lynch, guest-star [Neil Patrick Harris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil_Patrick_Harris) and Murphy's direction of the [pilot episode](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)). In 2011, the show once again won the [Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Television_Series_%E2%80%93_Musical_or_Comedy). Jane Lynch and Chris Colfer won Golden Globes for [Best Supporting Actress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Supporting_Actress_%E2%80%93_Series,_Miniseries_or_Television_Film) and [Best Supporting Actor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Supporting_Actor_%E2%80%93_Series,_Miniseries_or_Television_Film) respectively; Matthew Morrison and Lea Michele also received nominations for [Best Actor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_%E2%80%93_Television_Series_Musical_or_Comedy) and [Best Actress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actress_%E2%80%93_Television_Series_Musical_or_Comedy) respectively. The show was also chosen by Fox to fill the coveted timeslot that followed the network's coverage of [Super Bowl XLV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_Bowl_XLV) in 2011. On July 14, 2011, Glee was nominated for twelve [Primetime Emmys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primetime_Emmys).

Murphy and Fox have produced a [concert film](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concert_film), [*Glee: The 3D Concert Movie*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_3D_Concert_Movie), featuring performance and backstage footage from the 2011 [Glee Live! In Concert!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_Live!_In_Concert!) tour. The film was directed by [Kevin Tancharoen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_Tancharoen), and began its two-week limited release in the United States on August 12, 2011.

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| **Contents**   * [1 Production](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Production)   + [1.1 Conception](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Conception)   + [1.2 Writing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Writing)   + [1.3 Music and choreography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Music_and_choreography)   + [1.4 Promotion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Promotion) * [2 Cast and characters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Cast_and_characters) * [3 Broadcast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Broadcast) * [4 Merchandise](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Merchandise) * [5 Reception](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Reception)   + [5.1 Critical reception](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Critical_reception)   + [5.2 Music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Music)   + [5.3 Fandom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Fandom)   + [5.4 Accolades](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Accolades)   + [5.5 Ratings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Ratings) * [6 Film](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Film) * [7 Related media](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#Related_media) * [8 References](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#References) * [9 External links](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#External_links) |

**Production**

**Conception**

[Ian Brennan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Brennan_(writer)) conceived *Glee* based on his own experience as a member of the [Prospect High School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prospect_High_School_(Illinois)) show choir in [Mount Prospect, Illinois](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Prospect,_Illinois).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-dailyherald1-0) He initially envisioned *Glee* as a film, rather than a television series, and wrote the first draft in August 2005 with the aid of *Screenwriting* [*for Dummies*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/For_Dummies).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-dailyherald1-0) He completed the script in 2005, but could not generate interest in the project for several years.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-DH-1) Mike Novick, a television producer and a friend of Brennan's from Los Angeles, was a member of the same gym as Ryan Murphy, and gave him a copy of Brennan's script.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-LAT-2) Murphy had been in a show choir in college, and felt he could relate to the script. Murphy and his [*Nip/Tuck*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nip/Tuck) colleague Brad Falchuk suggested that *Glee* be produced as a television show. The script was entirely rewritten,[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-DH-1) and was picked up by [Fox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company) within 15 hours of being received. Murphy attributed that, in part, to the network's success with [*American Idol*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Idol). "It made sense for the network with the biggest hit in TV, which is a musical, to do something in that vein", he said.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Variety-3) Murphy and Falchuk became the show's executive producers and showrunners, while Brennan is a co-executive producer and Novick is a producer.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Variety-3) Brennan, Falchuk and Murphy have written all of the show's episodes for its first two seasons.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-4)

*Glee* is set at the fictional William McKinley High School in [Lima, Ohio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lima,_Ohio).[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-5) Murphy chose a Midwest setting as he himself grew up in [Indiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana), and recalled childhood visits to Ohio to the [Kings Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings_Island) theme park.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-6) Although set in Lima, the show is filmed at [Paramount Studios](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramount_Pictures) in Hollywood.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-7) Murphy has said that he has never seen a [*High School Musical*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_School_Musical_(film_series)) film, to which *Glee* has been compared, and that his interest lay in creating a "postmodern musical," rather than "doing a show where people burst into song," drawing more heavily on the format of [*Chicago*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_(2002_film)).[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-HSM-8) Murphy intended the show to be a form of escapism. "There's so much on the air right now about people with guns, or sci-fi, or lawyers running around. This is a different genre, there's nothing like it on the air at the networks and cable. Everything's so dark in the world right now, that's why *Idol* worked. It's pure escapism," he said.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Variety-3) Murphy intended to make a family show to appeal to adults as well as children, with adult characters starring equally alongside the teenage leads,[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-Variety-3) and he has mapped out plans for the series covering three years of broadcast.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-BB-9)

**Writing**

The three co-creators—Murphy, Falchuk, and Brennan—plan the stories together. For the first two seasons, they were the only writers, and after taking joint credit for the pilot episode and the episode that opened the fall 2009 season, they began rotating taking a single auctorial credit, based in large part on the person "who’s taken the lead in story breaking or who wrote a draft". Brennan noted that the writing process is "fast and loose, with the emphasis on fast", and quotes Murphy as having said, in terms of their roles in episode creation, "I'm sort of the brain. Brad's sort of the heart. Ian's sort of the funny bone", which Brennan says "is true in a lot of ways". Some of the characters are written more by one writer than by the others. Brennan writes most of Sue's material, and Falchuk frequently writes the scenes between Kurt and Burt Hummel, though Murphy contributes a great deal to Kurt.[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-AVClub-10)

Starting with season three, a writing staff of six was hired: [Ali Adler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allison_Adler), [Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto_Aguirre-Sacasa), [Marti Noxon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marti_Noxon), [Michael Hitchcock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Hitchcock), Matt Hodgson and Ross Maxwell.[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-11) The season's fourth episode, "[Pot o' Gold](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pot_o%27_Gold_(Glee))", is being written by Adler, the first not credited to the show's three creators.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-HR-12)[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Adler-13)

**Music and choreography**

*Main articles:* [*List of songs in Glee*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_songs_in_Glee) *and* [*Glee Cast discography*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_Cast_discography)

The series features numerous song [covers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cover_version) sung onscreen by the characters.[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-DN-14) Ryan Murphy is responsible for selecting all of the songs used, and has said that he strives to maintain a balance between chart hits and show tunes: "I want there to be something for everybody in every episode. That's a tricky mix, but that's very important — the balancing of that."[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-LAT-2) According to Murphy, the song choices are integral to script development, "Each episode has a theme at its core. After I write the script, I will choose songs that help to move the story along."[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-15) In a 2010 interview with [Allison Kugel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allison_Kugel), [Chris Colfer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Colfer) noted that "there have been a couple of times when I have gone to Ryan Murphy (*Glee* creator) and told him a couple of things that have happened to me, and then he writes it into the show. Or he’ll ask me what song I would want to sing, in this situation or in that situation. I don’t think any of us directly try to give input on the character or on the storyline, but they definitely steal things from us."[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-colferkugeltwo-16) For the second season, a shift toward using more [Top 40](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top_40) songs was seen, in an effort to appeal more to the [18–49 demographic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nielsen_ratings#Demographics).[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-lifeline-17)

Murphy was surprised at the ease with which use of songs was approved by the record labels approached, and explained: "I think the key to it is they loved the tone of it. They loved that this show was about optimism and young kids, for the most part, reinterpreting their classics for a new audience."[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-DN-14) A minority of those approached refused to allow their music to be used, including [Bryan Adams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryan_Adams), [Guns N' Roses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guns_N%27_Roses) and [Coldplay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coldplay); however, in June 2010, Coldplay reversed their decision, allowing *Glee* the rights to their catalog.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-18) Adams posted on his Twitter account that the producers of *Glee* had never requested permission from him and urged them to "pick up the phone".[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-19) Composer and musician [Billy Joel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Joel) offered many of his songs for use on the show,[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-afternoon-20) and other artists have offered use of their songs for free.[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-21) A series of *Glee* soundtrack albums have been released through [Columbia Records](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_Records). Songs featured on the show are available for [digital download](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_download) through iTunes up to two weeks before new episodes air, and through other digital outlets and mobile carriers a week later.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-BB-9) *Glee* music producer [Adam Anders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Anders) has begun to add original music to the show, including two original songs, "[Loser Like Me](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loser_Like_Me)" and "[Get It Right](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Get_It_Right_(Glee_Cast_song))", on the March 15, 2011 episode.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-22)

*Glee* is choreographed by Zach Woodlee and features four to eight production numbers per episode.[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-USAToday-23) Once Murphy selects a song, rights are cleared with its publishers by music supervisor P. J. Bloom, and music producer Adam Anders rearranges it for the *Glee* cast.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-BB-9) Numbers are pre-recorded by the cast, while Woodlee constructs the accompanying dance moves, which are then taught to the cast and filmed.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-LAT-2) Studio recordings of tracks are then made. The process begins six to eight weeks before each episode is filmed, and can end as late as the day before filming begins.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-BB-9) Each episode costs at least $3 million to produce,[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-LAT-2) and can take up to ten days to film as a result of the elaborate choreography.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-HSM-8) In late 2010, Bloom reported the process has been even shorter; "as quick as a few weeks".[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-lifeline-17) For the second season, the creators were offered listens of upcoming songs in advance by publishers and record labels, with production occurring even before song rights are cleared.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-lifeline-17)

**Promotion**

*Further information:* [*Glee Live! In Concert!*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_Live!_In_Concert!)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Glee_balloon.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/skins-1.18/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Glee_balloon.jpg)

A promotional balloon for *Glee* in New York City.

Prior to the premiere of the second episode, the cast of *Glee* went on tour at several [Hot Topic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_Topic) stores across the nation.[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Hot_Topic-24) The cast sang [the U.S. national anthem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Star-Spangled_Banner) at the third game of the [2009 World Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_World_Series).[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-25) They were invited by [Macy's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macy%27s) to perform at the 2009 [Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macy%27s_Thanksgiving_Day_Parade), but host broadcaster [NBC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBC) rejected the plan due to *Glee* airing on a rival network.[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-TMZ-26)[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Glee_bumped-27) Murphy commented on the cast's exclusion: "I completely understand NBC's position, and look forward to seeing a [Jay Leno](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay_Leno) float."[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-28)

Due to the success of the show, the cast went on a concert tour following the first season wrap up—[Glee Live! In Concert!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_Live!_In_Concert!)—visiting [Phoenix](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoenix,_Arizona), Chicago, Los Angeles and New York.[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-29) In addition, the cast recorded a cover of [Wham!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wham!)'s "[Last Christmas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last_Christmas)", which was released as a single in late 2009, but didn't appear in the show until "[A Very Glee Christmas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Very_Glee_Christmas)" on December 10, 2010.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-BB-9) Morrison, Lynch, Michele, Monteith and Colfer reprised their roles as Will, Sue, Rachel, Finn and Kurt respectively for a cameo appearance in an episode of [*The Cleveland Show*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cleveland_Show) that aired January 16, 2011.[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-30) Michele, Monteith and Riley appeared as campers in the [twenty-second](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Simpsons_(season_22)) [season premiere](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elementary_School_Musical_(The_Simpsons)) of [*The Simpsons*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Simpsons).[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-prem-31)

Lynch, Colfer, Monteith and Riley appeared at the 2010 MTV VMAs on September 12, 2010.[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-32) When Agron, Michele and Monteith posed for a set of risqué photos for the November 2010 edition of [*GQ*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GQ) magazine, the show was criticized by the [Parents Television Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parents_Television_Council) (PTC). PTC president Tim Winter commented that *Glee* has many young fans, and that "by authorizing this kind of near-pornographic display, the creators of the program have established their intentions on the show’s direction. And it isn't good for families."[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-33)

The promotional posters for the first season have the stars of the show using their right hands to make an "L" to fill in the *L* of the word *Glee*. The promotional posters for the second season have the stars of the show in pairs throwing slushies at the camera. The promotional posters for the third season have the stars of the show getting dodgeballs thrown at them by Sue Sylvester. While the cast concert tour, Glee Live! In Concert!, began on May 15, 2010, and presented concerts in four cities in the US for the remainder of the month, the second edition, with an almost entirely new set list, toured for four weeks in the US and Canada from May 21 through June 18, 2011, and followed that with twelve days in England and Ireland, from June 22 through July 3, 2011.[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-34) The cast also performed on the [seventh season of *The X Factor*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_X_Factor_(UK_series_7)) on December 5, 2010.[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-35)

**Cast and characters**

*Main article:* [*Characters of Glee*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Matthew_Morrison_2009.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/skins-1.18/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Matthew_Morrison_2009.jpg)

Morrison was cast after Murphy spent three months observing actors on Broadway.

In casting *Glee*, Murphy sought out actors who could identify with the rush of starring in theatrical roles. Instead of using traditional network casting calls, he spent three months on Broadway, where he found [Matthew Morrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Morrison), who had previously starred on stage in [*Hairspray*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hairspray_(musical)) and [*The Light in the Piazza*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Light_in_the_Piazza_(musical)); [Lea Michele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lea_Michele), who starred in [*Spring Awakening*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Awakening); and [Jenna Ushkowitz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenna_Ushkowitz), who had been in the Broadway revival of [*The King and I*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_King_and_I).[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-rewrite-36)

Actors with no theatrical experience who auditioned were required to prove they could sing and dance as well as act. [Chris Colfer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Colfer) had no previous professional experience, but Murphy wrote in the character Kurt Hummel for him to play.[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-rewrite-36) [Jayma Mays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jayma_Mays) auditioned with the song "[Touch-a, Touch-a, Touch-a, Touch Me](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Touch-a,_Touch-a,_Touch-a,_Touch_Me)" from [*The Rocky Horror Show*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rocky_Horror_Show), while [Cory Monteith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory_Monteith) initially submitted a tape of himself acting only, and was requested to submit a second, musical tape, in which he sang "a cheesy, '80s music-video-style version" of [REO Speedwagon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REO_Speedwagon)'s "[Can't Fight This Feeling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Can%27t_Fight_This_Feeling)".[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-rewrite-36) [Kevin McHale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_McHale_(actor)) came from a boy-band background, having previously been part of the group [Not Like Them](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NLT_(band)). He explained that the diversity of the cast's backgrounds reflects the range of different musical styles within the show itself: "It's a mix of everything: classic rock, current stuff, R&B. Even the musical theatre stuff is switched up. You won't always recognize it."[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-rewrite-36) [Jane Lynch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Lynch) was originally supposed to have a recurring role in the show,[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-37) but was made a series regular when a [Damon Wayans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damon_Wayans) pilot she was working on for [ABC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ABC_(network)) fell through.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-NYT-38) The cast is contracted for a potential three *Glee* films,[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-39) with their contract stating that "[The actor] hereby grants Fox three exclusive, irrevocable options to engage [the actor] in up to, respectively, three feature length motion pictures."[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-40) Murphy said in December 2010 that he wasn't interested in doing a *Glee* movie "as a story", and added, "I might do it as a live concert thing."[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-41) [*Glee: The 3D Concert Movie*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_3D_Concert_Movie), filmed during the 2011 [Glee Live! In Concert!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_Live!_In_Concert!) tour, was released on August 12, 2011.[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-HolRep-42)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cory_Monteith_2009.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/skins-1.18/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cory_Monteith_2009.jpg)

Monteith plays glee club member Finn Hudson.

*Glee* features fifteen main roles with [star billing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billing_(filmmaking)). Morrison plays [Will Schuester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Schuester), McKinley High's Spanish teacher who becomes director of the glee club, hoping to restore it to its former glory.[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-USAToday-23) Lynch plays [Sue Sylvester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sue_Sylvester), head coach of the "Cheerios" cheerleading squad, and the Glee Club's arch-nemesis.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-NYT-38) Mays appears as [Emma Pillsbury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Pillsbury), the school's [mysophobic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysophobia) [guidance counselor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guidance_counselor) who has feelings for Will,[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-43) and [Jessalyn Gilsig](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jessalyn_Gilsig) plays [Terri Schuester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terri_Schuester), Will's wife whom he eventually divorces after five years of marriage—they separate when he discovers she has faked being pregnant.[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-NYPost-44) [Lea Michele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lea_Michele) plays [Rachel Berry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Berry), talented star of the glee club who is often bullied by the Cheerios and football players.[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-NYPost-44) Monteith plays [Finn Hudson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finn_Hudson), star quarterback of the school's football team who risks alienation by his friends after joining the glee club.[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-NYPost-44) Also in the club are [Amber Riley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amber_Riley) as [Mercedes Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes_Jones), a fashion-conscious diva who initially resents having to sing back-up; Colfer as [Kurt Hummel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt_Hummel), a gay male [countertenor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Countertenor);[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-kurt-bio-45) McHale as [Artie Abrams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artie_Abrams), a guitar player and paraplegic; and Ushkowitz as [Tina Cohen-Chang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tina_Cohen-Chang), an Asian American student with a fake [speech impediment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speech_impediment). [Dianna Agron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianna_Agron) plays [Quinn Fabray](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinn_Fabray), Finn's cheerleader girlfriend, who later joins the glee club to keep an eye on him. [Mark Salling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Salling) plays [Noah "Puck" Puckerman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puck_(Glee)), a good friend of Finn's on the football team who at first disapproves of Finn joining the glee club, but later joins the glee club himself. [Naya Rivera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naya_Rivera) and [Heather Morris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heather_Morris_(actress)), who portray Cheerios and glee club vocalists [Santana Lopez](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santana_Lopez) and [Brittany Pierce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brittany_Pierce) respectively, were originally recurring actors, but starting in the second season were promoted to series regulars.[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-46) [Mike O'Malley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_O%27Malley), who plays Kurt's father [Burt Hummel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burt_Hummel), also became a series regular on season two.[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-47) Gilsig and O'Malley no longer appear on the list of starring actors at the beginning of the third season, though O'Malley will be appearing as a recurring guest star in at least six episodes during the season.[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-48) Two actors were promoted to series regulars at the same time: [Harry Shum, Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Shum,_Jr.) as football player and glee club member [Mike Chang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Chang) and [Darren Criss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren_Criss) as former Dalton Academy Warbler and new club member [Blaine Anderson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaine_Anderson), both of whom started as recurring actors, Shum in the first season and Criss in the second.

Murphy has stated that many of the original characters will graduate from McKinley High at the end of the third season. "We didn't want to have a show where they were in high school for eight years. We really wanted to be true to that experience."[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-49) Adult characters played by Matthew Morrison and Jane Lynch will remain to provide continuity to the series,[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-50) though according to Falchuk, some students—Rachel, Finn and Kurt in particular—will likely remain on the show after they graduate.[[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-MicheleMonteithColferStaying-51)

**Broadcast**

*Main article:* [*List of Glee episodes*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes)

The [first season](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_1)) of *Glee* consists of 22 episodes.[[53]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Episodes-52) The [pilot episode](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)) was broadcast on May 19, 2009.[[54]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-53) The series returned on September 9, 2009,[[55]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-Mitovich-54) airing an additional twelve episodes on Wednesdays in the 9:00 pm timeslot until December 9, 2009, for a total of thirteen episodes. On September 21, 2009, nine more episodes were ordered for the first season by [Fox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company),[[56]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-The_Futon_Critic-55) and the first of these episodes was broadcast on April 13, 2010. These episodes aired on Tuesday evenings at 9:00 pm.[[57]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-56) On January 11, 2010, it was announced that Fox had commissioned a second season of the show. The second season began production in June 2010.[[58]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-pickup-57)[[59]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-58) [Season two](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_2)) began on September 21, 2010,[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-s2-59) airing in the 8:00 pm time slot on Tuesdays, and consists of 22 episodes. The show was chosen by Fox to fill the coveted timeslot that followed the network's coverage of [Super Bowl XLV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_Bowl_XLV) in 2011,[[61]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-60) and the network originally planned to move the show to the 9:00 pm time slot on Wednesdays following the post–Super Bowl broadcast.[[62]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-LR-61) However, Fox later revised its schedule, leaving *Glee* on Tuesdays in order to concentrate on building up its weaker Wednesday and Thursday line-ups.[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-62) A third season was ordered by Fox on May 23, 2010, before the end of the first season. The early renewal of the show allowed the production team to cut costs and to plan ahead when writing scripts.[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-season3-63) The third season broadcasts are scheduled to remain in the show's Tuesday 8:00 pm time slot, and began airing on September 20, 2011.[[65]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-64)[[66]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-65)

*Glee* has been syndicated for broadcast in many countries worldwide, including Australia, where cast members visited to promote the show prior to its September 2009 debut on [Network Ten](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_Ten).[[67]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-66) It also airs in Canada,[[68]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-67) New Zealand,[[69]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-68) and Fiji.[[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-69) It is broadcast in South Africa, where Fox beams the episodes directly to the [M-Net](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M-Net) broadcast center in [Johannesburg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannesburg) rather than delivering the tapes.[[71]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-70) In addition, it airs in the United Kingdom,[[72]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-71) where [E4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E4_(channel)) broadcast the first two seasons, showing episodes months after they were first aired in the US. [Sky1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sky1) will broadcast the series from starting with the third season, airing episodes two days after their US broadcast.[[73]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-72) The series also airs in Italy—a week later than the US broadcast, and dubbed into Italian—and in Lithuania.[[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-73) In Ireland, most episodes premiere 20 hours after their US broadcast, making it the European Premiere.[[75]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-74) Asian countries that broadcast *Glee* include the Philippines,[[76]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-75) India,[[77]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-76) Malaysia,[[78]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-77) Singapore[[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-78) Indonesia and Japan. The show began airing in Brazil on July 2, 2011, on the [Rede Globo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rede_Globo) network.[[80]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-79)

**Merchandise**

*Main article:* [*Glee merchandise*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_merchandise)

Three soundtrack albums were released to accompany *Glee*'s first season: [*Glee: The Music, Volume 1*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_Volume_1), [*Glee: The Music, Volume 2*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_Volume_2) and [*Glee: The Music, Volume 3 Showstoppers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_Volume_3_Showstoppers).[[81]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-80)[[82]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-81)[[83]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-82) Two [extended plays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extended_play) (EP) accompanied the episodes "[The Power of Madonna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Power_of_Madonna)" and "[Journey to Regionals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journey_to_Regionals)": [*Glee: The Music, The Power of Madonna*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_The_Power_of_Madonna) and [*Glee: The Music, Journey to Regionals*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_Journey_to_Regionals) respectively.[[84]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-83)[[85]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-84) *Glee: The Music, The Complete Season One*, a [compilation album](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compilation_album) featuring all 100 studio recordings from the first season, was released exclusively to the [iTunes Store](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ITunes_Store).[[86]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-85) Five soundtrack albums were released to accompany *Glee*'s second season: [*Glee: The Music, The Christmas Album*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_The_Christmas_Album), featuring Christmas-themed songs, and [*Glee: The Music, Volume 4*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_Volume_4), were both released in November 2010;[[87]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-86)[[88]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-87)[[89]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-88) [*Glee: The Music, Volume 5*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_Volume_5),[[90]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-89) [*Glee: The Music Presents the Warblers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music_Presents_the_Warblers),[[91]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-90) and [*Glee: The Music, Volume 6*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_Volume_6)[[92]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-pressrelease-91) were 2011 releases, in March, April, and May, respectively. An EP entitled [*Glee: The Music, The Rocky Horror Glee Show*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_The_Rocky_Horror_Glee_Show) was released to accompany the Halloween episode, "[The Rocky Horror Glee Show](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rocky_Horror_Glee_Show)".[[93]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-92) Two EPs were released exclusively at the [Target](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Target_Corporation) discount chain: *Glee: The Music, Love Songs* in the last week of 2010, and *Glee: The Music, Dance Party* in early September 2011.[[94]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-target-93)[[95]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-target_danceparty-94)

*Glee* has been released on several DVD and Blu-ray box-sets. [*Glee – Pilot Episode: Director's Cut*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_1)#DVD_and_Blu-ray_releases) features the pilot episode and a preview of the second episode, "[Showmance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Showmance" \o "Showmance)".[[96]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-PilotDVD-95) [*Glee – Volume 1: Road to Sectionals*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_1)#DVD_and_Blu-ray_releases) contains the first thirteen episodes of season one,[[97]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-dvd-96) and [*Glee – Volume 2: Road to Regionals*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_1)#DVD_and_Blu-ray_releases) contains the final nine episodes of the first season.[[98]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-97) [*Glee – The Complete First Season*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_1)#DVD_and_Blu-ray_releases) was released on September 13, 2010.[[99]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-98) Three boxed sets were released for the second season: *Glee Season 2: Volume 1* containing the first ten episodes on January 25, 2011,[[100]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-99) and both *Glee Season 2: Volume 2* with the final twelve episode and *Glee: The Complete Second Season* with all twenty-two on September 13, 2011.[[101]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-S2Comp-100) All three were released on DVD; only the complete season is available on Blu-Ray.

[Little, Brown Books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little,_Brown_and_Company) is in the process of publishing five *Glee*–related [young adult novels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young-adult_fiction), which are being developed in collaboration with the show's producers and writers.[[102]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-JS-101) The first three novels have been written by Sophia Lowell; the first, *Glee: The Beginning*, was released in August 2010 and serves as a prequel to the events of the television series.[[103]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-GtB-102) Subsequent novels include *Glee: Foreign Exchange*, released in February 2011,[[104]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-In-103) and *Glee: Summer Break*, released in July 2011.[[105]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-104) Separate to the young adult series, it was planned that Sue Sylvester would write her autobiography in the second season; Murphy also planned for it to be released as a real book, with Lynch going on an accompanying book tour in character as Sue.[[106]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-105)[[107]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-106) The book was not mentioned on the program during the second season, nor has it been scheduled for publication.

Twentieth Century Fox Consumer Products have plans for a line of *Glee*–related merchandise including games, electrical products, greeting cards, apparel and stationery.[[108]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-GS-107) [Macy's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macy%27s) carry a line of *Glee*–related clothing, and [Claire's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claire%27s) stock accessories.[[109]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-108)

**Reception**

**Critical reception**

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jayma_Mays_2009.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/skins-1.18/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jayma_Mays_2009.jpg)

*Variety*'s Brian Lowry said that [Jayma Mays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jayma_Mays) as Emma offered "modest redemption" to an adult cast of "over-the-top buffoons".

*Glee* received a [Metacritic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metacritic) score of 77 out of 100, based on 18 critic reviews.[[110]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-109) It was praised by critics in several round-up reviews of [2009 in television](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_in_television). James Poniewozik of *Time* ranked it the eighth best television show of the year, commenting: "when *Glee* works—which is often—it is transcendent, tear-jerking and thrilling like nothing else on TV."[[111]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-110) *Entertainment Weekly*'s Ken Tucker ranked it ninth, calling it "Hands down the year's most novel show [and] also its least likely success",[[112]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-111) Lisa Respers France of [CNN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CNN) wrote that while ordinarily *Glee*'s premise would have been "a recipe for disaster", the show has "such quirky charm and bravado that it is impossible not to get swept up".[[113]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-112)

After the episode "[Showmance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Showmance_(Glee)" \o "Showmance (Glee))", the Parents Television Council named *Glee* the 'Worst Show of the Week', calling it "an edgy, sexually-charged adult series that is inappropriate for teenagers".[[114]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-113) Nancy Gibbs of *Time* magazine wrote that she had heard the series described as "anti-Christian" by a youth minister, and commented:

It is easy to see his point, if you look at the specifics. [...] The students lie, they cheat, they steal, they lust, they lace the bake-sale cupcakes with pot in order to give the student body a severe case of the munchies. Nearly all the [Ten Commandments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten_Commandments) get violated at point or another, while the audience is invited to laugh at people's pain and folly and humiliation. ... It insults kids to suggest that simply watching Characters Behaving Badly onscreen means they'll take that as permission to do the same themselves. [...] And it's set in high school, meaning it's about a journey not just to college and career but to identity and conviction, the price of popularity, the compromises we must make between what we want and what we need."[[115]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-114)

[*Variety*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variety_(magazine))'s Brian Lowry was critical of the show's early episodes, highlighting acting and characterization issues and deeming the adult cast "over-the-top buffoons", with the exception of Mays' Emma, who he felt offered "modest redemption".[[116]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-115) Though he praised Colfer and Michele's performances, Lowry wrote that the show's talent was squandered by its "jokey, cartoonish, wildly uneven tone", deeming the series a "one-hit wonder".[[117]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Variety2-116) Following the show's mid-season finale, Lowry wrote that while *Glee* "remains a frustrating mess at times", its "vibrant musical numbers and talented cast have consistently kept it on [his] TiVo must list" conceding that "even with its flaws, TV would be poorer without *Glee*."[[118]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-117)

As *Glee*'s initial success pulled in a large audience, John Doyle of the *Globe & Mail* wrote that the early shows "felt fresh, mainly because the motley crew of kids had a kind of square naïveté." Doyle notes that the early success took *Glee* away from its original characters and plot, focusing more on celebrity guests. 'The gaiety is gone from *Glee*. You should have set it in its prime, mere months ago".[[119]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-118)

**Music**

The show's musical performances have been a commercial success, with over thirty-six million copies of *Glee* cast single releases purchased digitally, and over eleven million albums purchased worldwide through October 2011.[[120]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-119) In 2009, the *Glee* cast had 25 singles chart on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100), the most by any artist since [The Beatles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beatles) had 31 songs in the chart in 1964;[[121]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-120) in 2010, it placed 80 singles on the *Billboard* Hot 100, far outstripping the previous record.[[122]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-121) In February 2011, Glee surpassed Elvis as the artist with the most songs placed on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, though fewer than one-fourth of them have charted for more than one week.[[123]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-122) The cast performance of "[Don't Stop Believin'](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don%27t_Stop_Believin%27)" was certified [gold](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_recording_sales_certification) on October 13, 2009, achieving over 500,000 digital sales,[[124]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Reuters-123) and on March 16, 2011, received platinum certification for having sales of over a million.[[125]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-riaa-124) The series' cover versions had a positive effect on sales of [Rihanna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rihanna)'s "[Take a Bow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Take_a_Bow_(Rihanna_song))" increasing by 189 percent after the song was covered in the *Glee* episode "Showmance".[[124]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Reuters-123)

However, there has also been critical condemnation of the cast performances, with Jon Dolan for *Rolling Stone* commenting that [Matthew Morrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Morrison) "couldn't rap his way out of a [98°](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/98_Degrees) rehearsal", and Allmusic's Andrew Leahey opining that [Cory Monteith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory_Monteith) and [Dianna Agron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianna_Agron) "can't sing nearly as well as their co-stars".[[126]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-AMG-125) [E! Online](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E!_Online)'s Joal Ryan criticized the show for its "overproduced soundtrack", in particular, complaining that many songs rely too heavily on the pitch correcting software [Auto-Tune](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auto-Tune), noting: "For every too-brief moment of [Lea Michele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lea_Michele) sounding raw—and lovely—on a "[What a Girl Wants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/What_a_Girl_Wants_(song))," or Monteith singing a perfectly credible [REO Speedwagon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REO_Speedwagon) in the shower, there's Michele and Monteith sounding like 1990s-era [Cher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cher) on "[No Air](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_Air)," or Monteith sounding like the Monteith XRZ-200 on the out-of-the-shower version of "[Can't Fight This Feeling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Can%27t_Fight_This_Feeling)".[[127]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-126)

During the second season, [Rob Sheffield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rob_Sheffield) for [*Rolling Stone*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolling_Stone) noted the [Britney Spears](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britney_Spears) and [*Rocky Horror*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rocky_Horror_Show) tribute episodes as examples when he lauded *Glee* and its choice of music. He praised Murphy for his selection and resurrection of "forgotten" pop songs and compared the show's uniqueness to "MTV in its prime" as the embodiment of [popular culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_culture).[[128]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-127)

Some artists, including [Slash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slash_(musician)), [Kings of Leon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings_of_Leon), [Red Hot Chili Peppers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Hot_Chili_Peppers) and [Foo Fighters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foo_Fighters) have declined to have their songs used on the show leaving creator Ryan Murphy unhappy with their decision and often verbally attacking the artists saying they are making a poor decision by not allowing their music on his show.[[129]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-128)

**Fandom**

Fans of *Glee* are commonly referred to as "gleeks",[[130]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-129) a [portmanteau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portmanteau) of "glee" and "geek". [Fox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company) ran a "Biggest GLEEK" competition, measuring fans' *Glee*-related activity on social networking websites such as Facebook and MySpace, and found that the growth of the fanbase outpaced the network's science-fiction shows.[[131]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-130) The cast's [Hot Topic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_Topic) tour was titled "The Gleek Tour".[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Hot_Topic-24) *Glee* is one of the most [tweeted](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter)-about TV shows.[[132]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-VS-131) Fans have recreated many of its musical numbers in tribute to the show, sharing them on YouTube. Based on this trend, show producers included instrumental versions of some songs on the show's soundtracks.[[132]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-VS-131)

**Accolades**

*Main article:* [*List of awards and nominations received by Glee*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_nominations_received_by_Glee)

*Glee* has received a number of awards and nominations. In 2009, the series won five [Satellite Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellite_Award): "[Best Musical or Comedy TV Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellite_Award_for_Best_Actress_%E2%80%93_Television_Series_Musical_or_Comedy)", "Best Actor" and "Actress in a Musical or Comedy TV Series" for Morrison and Michele, "[Best Supporting Actress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellite_Award_for_Best_Supporting_Actress_%E2%80%93_Series,_Miniseries_or_Television_Film)" for Lynch and "Special Achievement for Outstanding Guest Star" for [Kristin Chenoweth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristin_Chenoweth).[[133]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-132) In 2010, the show won a [Golden Globe Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award) for "[Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Television_Series_%E2%80%93_Musical_or_Comedy)". Morrison, Michele and Lynch also received acting nominations.[[134]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-GG-133) The series was nominated for two [Writers Guild of America Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writers_Guild_of_America_Award), with screenplays nominated in the "Comedy Series" and "New Series" categories.[[135]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-134) The *Glee* cast won the "[Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screen_Actors_Guild_Award_for_Outstanding_Performance_by_an_Ensemble_in_a_Comedy_Series)" award at the [16th Screen Actors Guild Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16th_Screen_Actors_Guild_Awards).[[136]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-135) [Paris Barclay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Barclay) and [Ryan Murphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Murphy_(writer)) both received nominations for "[Outstanding Directing – Comedy Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directors_Guild_of_America_Award_for_Outstanding_Directing_%E2%80%93_Comedy_Series)" at the Directors Guild of America Awards for their work on *Glee*.[[137]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-DG-136) In July 2010, *Glee* received nineteen [Emmy Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmy_Award) nominations, including "[Outstanding Comedy Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Comedy_Series)", "[Outstanding Lead Actor – Comedy Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actor_%E2%80%93_Comedy_Series)" for Morrison and "[Outstanding Lead Actress – Comedy Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actress_%E2%80%93_Comedy_Series)" for Michele; it won four of these, including "Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series" for Lynch and "Outstanding Guest Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series" for [Neil Patrick Harris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil_Patrick_Harris).[[138]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Emmys.com-137)

In January 16, 2011 the show won a Golden Globe for "[Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Television_Series_-_Musical_or_Comedy)" and both Lynch and Colfer won Golden Globes for Best Supporting Actress and Best Supporting Actor in a Television Series, Miniseries, or TV Film.[[139]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-GG2010-138) In July 2011, *Glee* received twelve Emmy nominations.[[138]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Emmys.com-137)

The cast was invited to sing at the [White House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_House) at the behest of [Michelle Obama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Obama) in April 2010 for the annual [Easter Egg Roll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_House_Easter_Egg_Roll).[[140]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Glee_cast_to_sing_at_the_White_House-139)

**Ratings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| List of ratings by season | | | | | | |
| **Season** | **Timeslot (**[**ET**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Time_Zone)**)** | **Season premiere** | **Season finale** | **TV season** | **Rank** | **Viewers (in millions)** |
| [**1**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_1)) | Wednesday 9:00 pm (2009) Tuesday 9:00 pm (2010) | May 19, 2009 | June 8, 2010 | 2009–2010 | No. 33 (overall)[[141]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Deadline_Hollywood-140) | 9.77[[141]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Deadline_Hollywood-140) |
| [**2**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_2)) | Tuesday 8:00 pm ([2010–2011](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010-2011_United_States_network_television_schedule))[[62]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-LR-61) [Sunday 10:38 pm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sue_Sylvester_Shuffle) ([February 6, 2011](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_Bowl_XLV)) [Tuesday 9:00 pm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_(Glee)) (May 24, 2011)[[142]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-141) | September 21, 2010 | May 24, 2011 | 2010–2011 | No. 43 | 10.112[[143]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-142) |
| [**3**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_3)) | Tuesday 8:00 pm ([2011–2012](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011%E2%80%9312_United_States_network_television_schedule))[[144]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-143) | September 20, 2011 | TBA | 2011–2012 | TBA | TBA |

The pilot episode of *Glee* averaged 9.62 million viewers,[[145]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-144) and the following eleven episodes attained between 6.10 and 7.65 million.[[146]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Zap11-145)[[147]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-146) The mid-season finale was watched by 8.13 million viewers,[[148]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-147) with the show returning in April 2010 to a season high of 13.66 million viewers.[[149]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-148) The following six episodes attained between 11.49 and 12.98 million viewers,[[150]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-149)[[151]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-150) falling to 8.99 million for the penultimate episode "Funk".[[152]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-151) Viewing figures rose to 11.07 million viewers for the season finale,[[153]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)" \l "cite_note-152) giving *Glee* the highest finale rating for a new show in the 2009–10 television season.[[154]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-153) Only the first twenty episodes of the first season were accounted for when calculating the season average due to the final two episodes airing outside the traditional sweeps period.[[155]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-Deadline.com_2009-2010_Series_Rankings-154) On February 6, 2011, after the [Superbowl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superbowl), *Glee* received its highest ever ratings, with over 26.8 million tuning in to see the special Superbowl episode, with a peak of 39.5 million.[[156]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-155)

**Film**

[*Glee: The 3D Concert Movie*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_3D_Concert_Movie), a [concert film](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concert_film) based on the four-week North American segment of the 2011 [Glee Live! In Concert!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_Live!_In_Concert!) tour and featuring the student cast of the series in performance and backstage, was released in the United States on August 12, 2011, for a two-week limited engagement. The film is directed by Kevin Tancharoen.[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-HolRep-42)

**Related media**

*Further information:* [*The Glee Project*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Glee_Project) *and* [*Don't Stop Believing*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don%27t_Stop_Believing)

In January 2010, it was announced that open auditions would be held for three new roles to be introduced in *Glee*'s second season. They were open to amateurs and professionals aged 16 to 26, and were intended to be the subject of a multi-part television special, set to air in the lead-in to the second season premiere in fall 2010, with the new cast members revealed in the first episode.[[58]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-pickup-57) Murphy commented: "Anybody and everybody now has a chance to be on a show about talented underdogs. We want to be the first interactive musical comedy on television."[[157]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-156) On June 22, 2010, Josef Adalian of [*New York*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_(magazine)) magazine revealed that the reality show would not go ahead, due to Murphy's desire to concentrate on the main series, and fear that the distraction of the reality show may damage *Glee*. Adalian reported that the production team would still choose several winners from the entrants and invite them to appear on *Glee* for at least one episode.[[158]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-157) In June 2010, it was announced that [Oxygen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxygen_(TV_channel)) would host a [reality series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reality_television) set to air in June 2011, featuring performers competing for a spot on *Glee*.[[159]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-158)[[160]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-159) [*The Glee Project*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Glee_Project) started airing on June 12, 2011, and the final episode was broadcast on August 21, 2011.[[161]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-160) The winning prize was a seven-episode guest-starring role in *Glee*'s third season, which was awarded to two contestants, with a two-episode role given to two other finalists.[[162]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-161)

On June 7, 2010, UK broadcaster [Channel 4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Channel_4) aired *Gleeful: The Real Show Choirs of America* on its [E4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E4_(channel)) station. The documentary explored the American [show choir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Show_choir) phenomenon which inspired *Glee*.[[163]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-162) Narrated by [Nick Grimshaw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Grimshaw),[[164]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-163) it went behind the scenes with real-life glee clubs and detailed celebrity show choir alumni including [Lance Bass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lance_Bass), [Ashton Kutcher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashton_Kutcher), [Blake Lively](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blake_Lively) and [Anne Hathaway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Hathaway_(actress)).[[165]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-164) It was selected as recommended viewing by [*The Guardian*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Guardian), with the comment: "it's a fascinating look at the real-life New Directions, and it's equally as crackers as its TV champion."[[166]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-165) The newspaper's Lucy Mangan reviewed the documentary positively, writing: "It will, one way or another, fill your heart to bursting", and commenting that: "*Glee*, it turns out, is not a gloriously ridiculous, highly polished piece of escapism. It is cinéma vérité."[[167]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-166) It was watched by 411,000 viewers, a 2.3% audience share.[[168]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-167)

In summer 2010, [Channel 5](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Channel_5_(UK)) in the United Kingdom aired [*Don't Stop Believing*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don%27t_Stop_Believing), a reality talent show inspired by *Glee*'s success. The series featured live shows in which established and new musical performance groups competed against each other, performing well-known songs in new arrangements, with viewers voting on the winner.[[169]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-About-168) Solo singers were also sought to join a group to represent the United Kingdom on the American glee club circuit.[[170]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-169)[[171]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-170) Five's controller [Richard Woolfe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Woolfe) stated: "There's an explosion in musical performance groups and *Don't Stop Believing* will tap into that exciting groundswell."[[172]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-171) The show was hosted by [Emma Bunton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Bunton),[[173]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-172) who told [*The Belfast Telegraph*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Belfast_Telegraph) that she is a "huge fan" of *Glee*.[[174]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-173) The show's judges were former [*EastEnders*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EastEnders) actress [Tamsin Outhwaite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamsin_Outhwaite), [Blue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_(group)) member [Duncan James](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duncan_James), singer [Anastacia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anastacia) and [*High School Musical*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_School_Musical) choreographer [Charles "Chucky" Klapow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Klapow).[[175]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)#cite_note-174)

PILOT EPISODE 1: GLEE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Original air date** | May 19, 2009 (2009-05-19) |
| **Guest stars** | |
| * [Naya Rivera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naya_Rivera) as [Santana Lopez](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santana_Lopez) * [Stephen Tobolowsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Tobolowsky) as [Sandy Ryerson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandy_Ryerson) * [Patrick Gallagher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Gallagher_(actor)) as [Ken Tanaka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Tanaka) * [Iqbal Theba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iqbal_Theba) as [Principal Figgins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principal_Figgins) * [Romy Rosemont](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romy_Rosemont) as [Carole Hudson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carole_Hudson) * [Ben Bledsoe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Bledsoe) as Hank Saunders * [Justin Gaston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Gaston) as Football player * Kent Avenido as Howard Bamboo | |

"**Pilot**" is the [pilot episode](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_episode) of the television series [*Glee*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)), which premiered on the [Fox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company) network on May 19, 2009.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-FoxPR-20090305-0) An extended [director's cut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Director%27s_cut) version aired on September 2, 2009. The show focuses on a high school [show choir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Show_choir), also known as a [glee club](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_club), set within the fictional William McKinley High School in [Lima, Ohio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lima,_Ohio).[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-1) The pilot episode covers the formation of the club and introduces the main characters. The episode was directed by series creator [Ryan Murphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Murphy_(writer)), and written by Murphy, [Brad Falchuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Falchuk) and [Ian Brennan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Brennan_(writer)). Murphy selected the music featured in the episode, with the intention of maintaining a balance between showtunes and chart hits.

The episode achieved 9.619 million viewers on first broadcast,[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)" \l "cite_note-pilot-2) and 4.2 million when the director's cut version aired.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-directors-3) Critical response was mixed, with [*The New York Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times)'s Alessandra Stanley highlighting the episode's unoriginality and stereotyped characters, but praising the showmanship and talent of the cast. [*The Daily News*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daily_News_(New_York))'s David Hinckley opined that the show was imperfect and implausible but "potentially heartwarming," while [*USA Today*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA_Today)'s Robert Bianco noted casting and tone problems, but commented positively on the show's humor and musical performances. Mary McNamara for the [*LA Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LA_Times) wrote that the show had a wide audience appeal, calling it: "the first show in a long time that's just plain full-throttle, no-guilty-pleasure-rationalizations-necessary fun."

## Plot

Spanish teacher [Will Schuester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Schuester) ([Matthew Morrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Morrison)) learns that [Sandy Ryerson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandy_Ryerson) ([Stephen Tobolowsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Tobolowsky)), the head of William McKinley High School's [glee club](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_club) has been fired for inappropriate behavior toward male student Hank Saunders ([Ben Bledsoe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Bledsoe)). The school principal, [Figgins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Figgins) ([Iqbal Theba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iqbal_Theba" \o "Iqbal Theba)), gives Will permission to take over the club, and he plans to revitalize it, naming the group New Directions. The club consists of fame-hungry [Rachel Berry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Berry) ([Lea Michele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lea_Michele)), diva [Mercedes Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes_Jones) ([Amber Riley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amber_Riley)), [flamboyant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flamboyancy) countertenor [Kurt Hummel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt_Hummel) ([Chris Colfer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Colfer)), [paraplegic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paraplegia) [electric guitar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_guitar) player [Artie Abrams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artie_Abrams) ([Kevin McHale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_McHale_(actor))) and [stuttering](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stutter) Goth [Tina Cohen-Chang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tina_Cohen-Chang) ([Jenna Ushkowitz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenna_Ushkowitz)). Will's efforts are derided by [Sue Sylvester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sue_Sylvester) ([Jane Lynch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Lynch)), head of the school's successful [cheerleading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheerleading) team, the Cheerios. His wife [Terri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terri_Schuester) ([Jessalyn Gilsig](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jessalyn_Gilsig" \o "Jessalyn Gilsig)) is also unsupportive, suggesting that Will become an accountant to increase their income. Rachel threatens to leave the club if Will cannot find a male vocalist with talent comparable to hers. When the school's football coach [Ken Tanaka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Tanaka) ([Patrick Gallagher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Gallagher_(actor))) allows Will to try to recruit football team members, he discovers that [quarterback](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quarterback) [Finn Hudson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finn_Hudson) ([Cory Monteith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory_Monteith)) is secretly a talented singer. He plants [marijuana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marijuana) in Finn's locker, and blackmails him into joining New Directions. Finn, determined not to disappoint his widowed mother, complies.

Will takes New Directions to see Vocal Adrenaline, a rival club, perform. He is accompanied by [Emma Pillsbury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Pillsbury) ([Jayma Mays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jayma_Mays" \o "Jayma Mays)), the school's [mysophobic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysophobia) [guidance counselor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guidance_counselor), who has a crush on him. Vocal Adrenaline perform an impressive rendition of [Amy Winehouse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy_Winehouse)'s "[Rehab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rehab_(Amy_Winehouse_song))", which leaves New Directions worried about their chances of competing in the regional [show choir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Show_choir) competition. When Will returns from the performance, Terri informs him she is pregnant. Believing he needs to support his family, Will regretfully tells the club he is resigning, and applies for a job as an accountant. Finn is attacked by the football team for his involvement with New Directions, and initially decides to quit the club. The team traps Artie in a [portable toilet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portable_toilet) which they intend to [tip over](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outhouse_tipping), however, Finn refuses to take part. He apologizes to the Glee club members, and the group resolves to continue without Will. Emma urges Will to reconsider his decision to leave, and when he comes across New Directions performing "[Don't Stop Believin'](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don%27t_Stop_Believin%27)" he decides to stay, telling the club he couldn't bear to see them win Nationals without him.

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pilot_(Glee)&action=edit&section=2)] Production

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pilot_(Glee)&action=edit&section=3)] Conception

[Ryan Murphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Murphy_(writer)), [Brad Falchuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Falchuk), and [Ian Brennan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Brennan) created *Glee*. Murphy drew inspiration from his own childhood, which saw him play the lead role in all of his high school's musicals. Brennan and producer [Mike Novick](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Novick) were also highly involved in their own schools' glee clubs.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-Variety-4) Brennan originally wrote a script for a *Glee* movie, but Murphy believed the concept would work better as a TV series.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-LAT-5) [Fox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company) picked up the series pilot within 15 hours of receiving the script, which Murphy attributes in part to the success of the network's [*American Idol*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Idol), commenting: "It made sense for the network with the biggest hit in TV, which is a musical, to do something in that vein".[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-Variety-4) Murphy intended the show to be a form of escapism, explaining: "There's so much on the air right now about people with guns, or sci-fi, or lawyers running around. This is a different genre, there's nothing like it on the air at the networks and cable. Everything's so dark in the world right now, that's why 'Idol' worked. It's pure escapism."[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-Variety-4) With regards to *Glee*'s audience, Murphy intended for it to be a family show which would appeal to adults as well as children, with adult characters starring equally alongside the teenage leads.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-Variety-4) *Glee* is set in [Lima, Ohio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lima,_Ohio). Murphy chose a Midwest setting as he himself originates from [Indiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana), and recalls childhood visits to Ohio to the [Kings Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings_Island) theme park.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-6) Although set in Lima, the show is actually filmed at [Paramount Studios](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramount_Studios) in [Hollywood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood).[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-7)

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pilot_(Glee)&action=edit&section=4)] Music

The episode features covers of numerous songs sung on-screen by the characters. Musical segments take the form of performances, as opposed to the characters singing spontaneously, as the intention is for the series to remain reality-based.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-DN-8) Murphy has commented that his interest lay in creating a "postmodern musical", rather than "doing a show where people burst into song", drawing on the format of [*Chicago*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_(2002_film)).[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-HSM-9) Murphy is responsible for selecting all of the songs used, and strives to maintain a balance between show tunes and chart hits, as: "I want there to be something for everybody in every episode. That's a tricky mix, but that's very important – the balancing of that."[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-LAT-5)

Songs featured in the pilot are "Where is Love?" from [*Oliver!*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver!), [Aretha Franklin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aretha_Franklin)'s "[Respect](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Respect_(song))", "Mister Cellophane" from [*Chicago*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_(musical)), [Katy Perry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katy_Perry)'s "[I Kissed a Girl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Kissed_a_Girl)", "On My Own" from [*Les Misérables*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Les_Mis%C3%A9rables_(musical)), "[Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit_Down,_You%27re_Rockin%27_the_Boat)" from [*Guys and Dolls*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guys_and_Dolls_(musical)), "[You're the One That I Want](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You%27re_the_One_That_I_Want)" from [*Grease*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grease_(film)), [REO Speedwagon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REO_Speedwagon)'s "[Can't Fight This Feeling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Can%27t_Fight_This_Feeling)", [Amy Winehouse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy_Winehouse)'s "[Rehab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rehab_(Amy_Winehouse_song))" and "[Don't Stop Believin'](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don%27t_Stop_Believin%27)" and "Lovin', Touchin', Squeezin'" by [Journey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journey_(band)).[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-Pilot-10) The [director's cut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Director%27s_cut) version also includes an [acoustic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acoustic_music) rendition of [John Denver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Denver)'s "[Leaving on a Jet Plane](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leaving_on_a_Jet_Plane)".[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-11) Murphy was surprised at the ease with which use of songs was approved by the record labels approached, and explained: "I think the key to it is they loved the tone of it. They loved that this show was about optimism and young kids, for the most part, reinterpreting their classics for a new audience."[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-DN-8) The score of the episode features [a cappella](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_cappella) covers of instrumental songs provided by [The Swingle Singers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Swingle_Singers).[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-12) Dance routines were choreographed by [Zach Woodlee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zach_Woodlee).[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-USAToday-13)

Four of the songs featured in the episode were released as [singles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_(music)), available for [digital download](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_download). "On My Own" charted at number 42 in Ireland and 73 in the UK,[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)" \l "cite_note-14) and "Can't Fight This Feeling" charted at number 117 in the UK.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-AP-15) "Rehab" charted at number 93 in Australia,[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)" \l "cite_note-16) 38 in Ireland, 62 in the UK and 98 in America.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-17) "Don't Stop Believin'" reached number 2 in the UK, 4 in America, 50 in Canada, 5 in Australia, 4 in Ireland and 16 in New Zealand.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-18) It sold 177,000 copies in the US in its first week,[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-ChartWatch-19) and went on to sell the most copies of any *Glee* single: it was certified gold with 500,000 sales in the US in October 2009, and reached one million in sales and platinum certification in March 2011; it has also been certified platinum in Australia.[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-riaa-20)[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-aria11-21)

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pilot_(Glee)&action=edit&section=5)] Casting

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Matthew_Morrison_2009.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/skins-1.18/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Matthew_Morrison_2009.jpg)

Morrison was cast after Murphy spent three months observing actors on Broadway.

In casting *Glee*, Murphy sought out actors who could identify with the rush of starring in theatrical roles. Instead of using traditional network casting calls, he spent three months on Broadway, where he found Morrison, who had previously starred on stage in [*Hairspray*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hairspray_(musical)) and [*The Light in the Piazza*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Light_in_the_Piazza_(musical)), Michele, who starred in [*Spring Awakening*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Awakening), and Ushkowitz, from the Broadway revival of [*The King and I*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_King_and_I). The role of Rachel was written specifically for Michele.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-bs-22) Colfer had no previous professional experience, but reminded Ryan of the character of Kurt from [*The Sound of Music*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sound_of_Music), and was thus cast as Kurt Hummel.[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-rewrite-23) He originally auditioned for Artie with the song "[Mr. Cellophane](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mr._Cellophane)", however Murphy was so impressed by his performance that the role of Kurt was created for him.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-bs-22) Colfer commented on his casting: "I'm so happy to be a part of something that is so new and different and so needed at this time. It's good to have something positive, especially for kids in small towns, like myself, who need a little pick-me-up. It's true: You can be famous – even if there's no money left in the world."[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-LAT-5)

Auditioning actors with no theatrical experience were required to prove they could sing and dance as well as act. Mays auditioned with the song "Touch-a, Touch-a, Touch-a, Touch Me" from [*The Rocky Horror Show*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rocky_Horror_Show), while Monteith initially submitted a tape of himself acting only, and was requested to submit a second, musical tape, in which he sung "a cheesy, '80s music-video-style version" of [REO Speedwagon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REO_Speedwagon)'s "[Can't Fight This Feeling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Can%27t_Fight_This_Feeling)"."[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-rewrite-23) Monteith has deemed his casting "spot on" as: "I'm just like my character. I've never trained or had any lessons. I can just do it – with some adjustments, obviously."[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-NYPost-24) McHale came from a boy-band background, having previously been part of the group [Not Like Them](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Not_Like_Them). He auditioned with the song "[Let It Be](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Let_It_Be)" and tested alongside Colfer and Ushkowitz.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-bs-22) He explained that the diversity of the cast's backgrounds reflects the range of different musical styles within the show itself: "It's a mix of everything: classic rock, current stuff, R&B. Even the musical theater stuff is switched up. You won't always recognize it."[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-rewrite-23) Lynch was originally intended to be a guest star, but became a series regular when a [Damon Wayans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damon_Wayans) [pilot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_episode) she was working on for [ABC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ABC_(network)) fell through.[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-NYT-25)

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pilot_(Glee)&action=edit&section=6)] Reception

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pilot_(Glee)&action=edit&section=7)] Ratings

Over the hour of broadcast, the first airing of the episode drew an average of 9.619 million US viewers.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-pilot-2) It began with 12.518 million, dropping after the first half hour from first place in the ratings to third, retaining only 8.917 million viewers.[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-ratings-26) The episode ranked fourteenth in the weekly programme ratings,[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)" \l "cite_note-demo-27) and was the fourth most viewed show on the Fox network for the week.[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-28) It received a 3.9/7 in the key adults 18–49 demographic.[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-demo-27) The director's cut version of the episode attained 4.2 million viewers, and a 1.8/5 in the 18–49 demographic.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-directors-3) The episode was the nineteenth highest viewed show in Canada for the week of broadcast, with 1.04 million viewers.[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-canadian_viewers-29) It was watched by 278,000 viewers in the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom), a 1.3% audience share, and by a further 100,000 on timeshift, a 0.6% share.[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-30) The director's cut was aired on January 11, 2010, followed by [Showmance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Showmance), and was watched by 1.76 million viewers, becoming the most-watched show on [E4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E4_(channel)) for the week, and the most-watched show on cable for the week.[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-31)

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pilot_(Glee)&action=edit&section=8)] Awards and nominations

Following the first broadcast of the episode, *Glee* was nominated for three [Teen Choice Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teen_Choice_Awards): Choice TV: Breakout Series, Choice TV: Breakout Star Male ([Cory Monteith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory_Monteith)) and Choice TV: Breakout Star Female ([Lea Michele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lea_Michele)).[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-32) Murphy was nominated for the 2009 [Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directing of a Comedy Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directors_Guild_of_America_Award_for_Outstanding_Directing_%E2%80%93_Comedy_Series) for his work on the episode.[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-DG-33) Robert J. Ulrich, Eric Dawson, Carol Kritzer and Jim Carnahan won an [Artios Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casting_Society_of_America) for casting of a comedy series,[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-34) Mark Hutman was nominated for the "Single Camera Television Series" [Art Directors Guild Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ADG_Excellence_in_Production_Design_Awards),[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-35) and David Klotz won a [Golden Reel Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motion_Picture_Sound_Editors#The_Golden_Reel_Awards) for "Best Sound Editing: Short Form Music in Television" for his work on the episode.[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-36) At the [62nd Primetime Emmy Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/62nd_Primetime_Emmy_Awards), Murphy, Falchuk and Brennan were nominated for the "[Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Writing_%E2%80%93_Comedy_Series)" award for their work on the episode. Murphy was additionally nominated for the "[Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Directing_%E2%80%93_Comedy_Series)" award, and Hutman, Christopher Brown and Barbara Munch were nominated for the "Outstanding Art Direction for a Single-Camera Series" award.[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-37)

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pilot_(Glee)&action=edit&section=9)] Critical reception

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jayma_Mays_2009.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/skins-1.18/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jayma_Mays_2009.jpg)

*Variety*'s Brian Lowry believed that Mays as Emma offered "modest redemption" to an adult cast of "over-the-top buffoons".

*Entertainment Weekly*'s [Ken Tucker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Tucker) gave the episode an A, posing the question: "Has there ever been a TV show more aptly named than *Glee*? It both embodies and inspires exactly that quality."[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-38) *Glee* was the top ranked topic on social networking site [Twitter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter) on the night of its initial airing.[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-39) Alessandra Stanley for the [*New York Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Times) called the show "blissfully unoriginal in a witty, imaginative way", saying the characters are "high school archetypes" but noted "a strong satiric pulse that doesn’t diminish the characters’ identities or dim the showmanship of a talented cast".[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-40) *The Daily News*' David Hinckley wrote that the show "isn't close to perfect" but "has likable characters, a good sense of humor and a reasonably deft touch with music."[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-DN2-41) He called the pilot episode "not very plausible" but "potentially heartwarming", writing of the musical choices: "The duet of "You're the One That I Want" from [*Grease*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grease_(film)) may be a little obvious, but setting a group dance routine to [Amy Winehouse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy_Winehouse)'s "Rehab" shows some inspiration. Whether *Glee* can hold that note remains a very unanswered question. But it will at least be worth watching to see."[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-DN2-41) [*USA Today*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA_Today)'s Robert Bianco assessed: "There's a lot to like here: the exuberance of the musical numbers, the bite to the comedy and the joy of seeing something different. It has casting and tone problems, but it has all summer to fix them."[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-42)

The [*Baltimore Sun*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltimore_Sun)'s David Zurawik was critical of the show's characterization and comedy, but was impressed by the staging of "Don't Stop Believin'", calling it "so elevating and inspirational that it almost redeems all the stereotypes and lame humor that come before. Grit my teeth as I did at how one-dimensionally empty-headed the writing could be, I will still be back for the start of this series in the fall because of its musical punch."[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-43) Tom Jicha for The [*Sun Sentinel*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Sentinel) similarly claimed of the episode that: "A lively score and appealing performers somewhat compensate for overly familiar characters and plotting",[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-44) while Rob Owen for the [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pittsburgh_Post-Gazette) agreed: "It's the music that makes *Glee* a gleeful delight. Without the song-and-dance production numbers, this Fox pilot would be just another high-school-set comedy-drama."[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-45)

The [*Chicago Tribune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_Tribune)'s Maureen Ryan commented that: "the two biggest musical numbers are tremendously entertaining. They're shot and performed with verve, and they put to shame those medleys contestants often perform on the Wednesday edition of *American Idol*",[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-CT-46) but again observed: "Whether it will work as a satirical dramedy about the cutthroat social environment of high school is another matter."[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-CT-46) Of the principal cast, Ryan said: "Casting Matthew Morrison as Will Schuester [...] was a wise move; the actor not only has a sweet voice but a hangdog hopefulness that gives a needed anchor to the show's more satirical elements. Cory Monteith gives quarterback Finn Hudson a jock-ish authority mixed with an appealingly square naivete, and Lea Michele not only has an amazing voice but manages to make her character, spoiled diva Rachel Berry, more than a humorless stereotype."[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-CT-46) She was critical, however, of Gilsig as Terri, calling her "the worst thing about *Glee*" and opining: "As written by Murphy and played by Gilsig, the character is screechy, unfunny and deeply unpleasant. It's as if Ryan didn't trust that the audience would get behind Will and the saga of his ragtag glee club and so saw fit to give the teacher the shrewish, nagging wife from hell."[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-CT-46)

In contrast, Tom Shales for [*The Washington Post*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Washington_Post) criticized Morrison as Will, writing: "Morrison is definitely not gleeful and doesn't seem particularly well equipped to be a high-school impresario; as pipers go, he's not even marginally pied."[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-WP-47) Shales was more positive regarding Lynch's performance, and concluded that: "Dramatic tension isn't exactly plentiful, but pleasingly staged songs and a general aura of retro ingenuousness come through, and seem awfully if fitfully refreshing".[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-WP-47) [*Variety*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variety_(magazine))'s Brian Lowry also highlighted acting and characterization issues with the show, writing that: "It's among the adults, alas – who are mostly over-the-top buffoons – where *Glee* nearly sails off the rails, from Jane Lynch's tyrannical cheer matron to the salivating football coach, a bit like the Rydell High gang in *Grease*."[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-Variety2-48) Lowry felt that: "Modest redemption comes from the stammering Emma ([*Heroes*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heroes_(TV_series))' Jayma Mays), who has a clear crush on Will, even though he's married to his high-school sweetheart. Perhaps to foster a rooting interest (or at least sympathy) for a Will-Emma pairing, said wife (Jessalyn Gilsig) is initially presented as a ditsy shrew."[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-Variety2-48) Mary McNamara for the [*Los Angeles Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Times) has called *Glee*: "the first show in a long time that's just plain full-throttle, no-guilty-pleasure-rationalizations-necessary fun."[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-McNamara-49) She praised Lynch as Sue, writing that "Lynch alone makes *Glee* worth watching", and claimed that overall: "The music, though by no means edgy, is energetic with a wide audience appeal, like the show itself.[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee)#cite_note-McNamara-49)

SEASON 2: EPISODE 1 GLEE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Original air date** | September 21, 2010 (2010-09-21) |
| **Guest stars** | |
| * [Charice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charice_Pempengco) as [Sunshine Corazon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Sunshine_Corazon) * [Chord Overstreet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chord_Overstreet) as [Sam Evans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Evans) * [Harry Shum, Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Shum,_Jr.) as [Mike Chang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Chang) * [Iqbal Theba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iqbal_Theba) as [Principal Figgins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Principal_Figgins) * [Josh Sussman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josh_Sussman) as [Jacob Ben Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Jacob_Ben_Israel) * [Dot-Marie Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot_Jones) as [Shannon Beiste](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Shannon_Beiste) * [Lauren Potter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Potter) as [Becky Jackson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Becky_Jackson) * [Cheyenne Jackson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheyenne_Jackson) as [Dustin Goolsby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Dustin_Goolsby) * [Max Adler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Adler_(actor)) as [Dave Karofsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Dave_Karofsky) * James Earl as [Azimio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Azimio) * Dustin Ingram as Pizza Guy | |

"**Audition**" is the [second season](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_2)) [premiere](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Season_premiere) and 23rd episode overall of the American television series [*Glee*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)). The episode was written by [Ian Brennan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Brennan_(writer)), directed by [Brad Falchuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Falchuk), and premiered on the [Fox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company) network on September 21, 2010. In "Audition", the glee club members attempt to attract new recruits, including [foreign exchange student](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Student_exchange_program) [Sunshine Corazon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Sunshine_Corazon) ([Charice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charice" \o "Charice)) and transfer student [Sam Evans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Evans) ([Chord Overstreet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chord_Overstreet)). A new football coach, [Shannon Beiste](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Shannon_Beiste) ([Dot-Marie Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot_Jones)), arrives at McKinley High, and school blogger [Jacob Ben Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Jacob_Ben_Israel) ([Josh Sussman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josh_Sussman)) provides updates on the glee club's summer break.

The episode features eight musical and dance performances, five of which were released as [singles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_(music)), available for [download](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_download). Musical performances attracted mixed reviews from critics. [Lea Michele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lea_Michele)'s rendition of "What I Did for Love" from [*A Chorus Line*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Chorus_Line) was described by Robert Bianco of [*USA Today*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA_Today) as putting "every amateur musical performance on every TV talent show this year to shame",[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-USA-0) however Mary McNamara of the [*Los Angeles Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Times) and ToddVanDerWerff of [*The A.V. Club*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_A.V._Club) both found it incongruous in context. Charice's performances were well received by American and Filipino critics, and [Alicia Keys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alicia_Keys) expressed approval of the *Glee* cast cover of "[Empire State of Mind](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_State_of_Mind)".

"Audition" was watched by 12.45 million American viewers, and attained *Glee*'s series high [Nielsen rating](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nielsen_rating) in the 18–34 demographic. It received generally favorable reviews from critics, with [*Entertainment Weekly*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entertainment_Weekly)'s Tim Stack and Jarett Wieselman of the [*New York Post*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Post) stating it had assuaged their fears of the show declining in quality in its second season. Brett Berk of [*Vanity Fair*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanity_Fair_(magazine)) and [*Rolling Stone*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolling_Stone)'s Erica Futterman both felt the show had returned to form following an increasingly disappointing first season. Several critics highlighted racial issues with the episode, with Fred Topel of *Hollywood News* describing a scene involving Sunshine as "downright racist",[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-HN-1) and Brittany Drye of *The Stir* additionally questioning the pairing of Asian characters [Mike Chang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Chang) ([Harry Shum, Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Shum,_Jr.)) and [Tina Cohen-Chang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tina_Cohen-Chang) ([Jenna Ushkowitz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenna_Ushkowitz)).

## Plot

Following New Directions' loss at Regionals, the glee club members attempt to recruit new students to bolster their competition performances. Upon learning that Nationals will be held in [New York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York) this year, they decide to perform "Empire State of Mind" (originally by [Jay-Z](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay-Z) featuring [Alicia Keys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alicia_Keys)) in the school courtyard, hoping to pique the interest of their schoolmates. Foreign exchange student [Sunshine Corazon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunshine_Corazon) ([Charice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charice" \o "Charice)) from the Philippines and transfer student [Sam Evans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Evans) ([Chord Overstreet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chord_Overstreet)) take notice and are intrigued by the performance. Club co-captain [Rachel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Berry) ([Lea Michele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lea_Michele)) later encounters Sunshine in the girls' bathroom, and they sing an impromptu duet of "[Telephone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_(song))" by [Lady Gaga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Gaga) and [Beyoncé](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beyonc%C3%A9_Knowles). Rachel is intimidated by her performance, and directs Sunshine to a [crack house](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crack_house) instead of the auditorium in an attempt to sabotage her glee club audition. Rachel is reprimanded by glee club director [Will Schuester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Schuester) ([Matthew Morrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Morrison)) when this is discovered. Sunshine later auditions successfully, impressing the club members with her rendition of "[Listen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Listen_(song))" from [*Dreamgirls*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dreamgirls_(film)).

Co-captain [Finn Hudson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finn_Hudson) ([Cory Monteith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory_Monteith)) encourages Sam to audition after overhearing him singing "[Every Rose Has Its Thorn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Every_Rose_Has_Its_Thorn)" by [Poison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poison_(band)). In the choir room, Sam, Finn, [Mike](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Chang) ([Harry Shum Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Shum_Jr.)), [Artie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artie_Abrams) ([Kevin McHale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_McHale_(actor))), and [Puck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puck_(Glee)) ([Mark Salling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Salling)) sing [Travie McCoy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travie_McCoy)'s "[Billionaire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billionaire_(song))" together. However, Sam declines to audition due to the low social status of the glee club members.

[Shannon Beiste](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shannon_Beiste) ([Dot-Marie Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot-Marie_Jones)) is appointed as the new coach of McKinley High's failing football team, resulting in reductions to the glee and cheerleading budgets in favor of the football team. Will and cheerleading coach [Sue Sylvester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sue_Sylvester) ([Jane Lynch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Lynch)) team up, hoping to drive Beiste out of the school and have their budgets restored. Amidst her scheming with Will, Sue also demotes [Santana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santana_Lopez) ([Naya Rivera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naya_Rivera" \o "Naya Rivera)) from her position as head cheerleader after learning she has had [breast implants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breast_implant), replacing her with [Quinn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinn_Fabray) ([Dianna Agron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianna_Agron)). Artie, who is disabled, asks Finn to help him join the football team. He hopes to win back his girlfriend [Tina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tina_Cohen-Chang) ([Jenna Ushkowitz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenna_Ushkowitz)), who has broken up with him to date Mike. Beiste believes that Finn is colluding against her by forcing her to reject a wheelchair-dependent student, and drops Finn from the team, appointing Sam as the new quarterback. Will is unable to convince her to take Finn back, but realizes that his hostile behavior is hurting his new colleague. Later, he defends Beiste from a Sue-driven [sexual harassment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_harassment) accusation by [Brittany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brittany_Pierce) ([Heather Morris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heather_Morris_(actress))), and apologizes, re-earning Sue's enmity.

Acting on her refuelled rivalry with Will, Sue contacts [Dustin Goolsby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dustin_Goolsby) ([Cheyenne Jackson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheyenne_Jackson)), the new director of rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline. Dustin is able to secure [permanent US residency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permanent_residence_(United_States)) for Sunshine and her mother on the proviso that she joins his club. Sunshine confesses that she felt driven out of New Directions by Rachel's hostile behavior. After admitting that she values herself above the other club members, Rachel sings "What I Did for Love" from [*A Chorus Line*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Chorus_Line) alone in the auditorium, before heading to the choir room to apologize.

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Audition_(Glee)&action=edit&section=2)] Production

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:CharicePempengco00.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/skins-1.18/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:CharicePempengco00.jpg)

Charice (*pictured*) appears in "Audition" as foreign exchange student [Sunshine Corazon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunshine_Corazon).

On January 11, 2010, Fox President [Kevin Reilly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_Reilly_(executive)) announced that *Glee* had been picked up for a second season, and would be holding nationwide, open casting calls to fill three new roles. The auditions were intended to be the subject of a multi-part television special, which would air in the lead-in to the second season premiere, with the new cast members revealed in the first episode.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-2) Series creator [Ryan Murphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Murphy_(writer)) stated that *Glee* aimed to become "the first interactive musical comedy on television."[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-3) Ultimately, the reality show did not go ahead, due to Murphy's desire to concentrate on the main series and fear that the distraction of the reality show might damage *Glee*.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-4)

As of "Audition", formerly recurring cast members [Heather Morris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heather_Morris_(actress)) and Naya Rivera were promoted to series regulars as cheerleaders and glee club members [Brittany Pierce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brittany_Pierce) and Santana Lopez respectively.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-5) The episode introduced four new cast members. [Chord Overstreet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chord_Overstreet) plays [Sam Evans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Evans), a recurring character who is initially an athletic protégé of glee club member Finn, but becomes his rival.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-6) Charice appears as Sunshine Corazon, a foreign exchange student and rival to Rachel.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-7) Charice was a fan of the show during its first season, and had her manager approach Murphy about casting her in season two.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-8) [Dot-Marie Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot_Jones) was cast as football coach Shannon Beiste,[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-9) replacing [season one](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_1)) cast member [Patrick Gallagher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Gallagher_(actor)) as [Ken Tanaka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Tanaka).[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-10) Cheyenne Jackson appears as Dustin Goolsby, the new director of rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline, replacing [Shelby Corcoran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelby_Corcoran) ([Idina Menzel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idina_Menzel" \o "Idina Menzel)). Jackson was originally considered for the role of Will,[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)" \l "cite_note-11) and in 2009 was cast in the *Glee* episode "[Acafellas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acafellas" \o "Acafellas)" as Vocal Adrenaline choreographer Dakota Stanley, however was unable to perform due to illness.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-12) Murphy described Dustin as "a complete villain", stating that he will "become very intertwined in Will's life".[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-13)

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Audition_(Glee)&action=edit&section=3)] Music

The episode featured [cover versions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cover_version) of "Empire State of Mind" by Jay-Z featuring Alicia Keys, Lady Gaga's "Telephone" featuring Beyoncé, "Billionaire" by Travie McCoy featuring [Bruno Mars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruno_Mars) and "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" by Poison. "What I Did for Love" from *A Chorus Line*, "[Getting to Know You](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getting_to_Know_You_(song))" from *The King and I*, and "Listen" from the film adaptation of *Dreamgirls* were also performed vocally,[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-14) while "[The Power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Power_(Snap!_song))" by [Snap!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snap!) featured as a dance performance.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-15) All of the songs performed in the episode except "Every Rose Has Its Thorn", "Getting to Know You" and "The Power" were released as singles, available for download, and "Empire State of Mind" and "Billionaire" are included on the album [*Glee: The Music, Volume 4*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee:_The_Music,_Volume_4).[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-16)[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-17) Following their release, over 250,000 *Glee* tracks were downloaded digitally within the first forty-eight hours, and over 409,000 within the first week, according to [Nielsen SoundScan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nielsen_SoundScan).[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-Rocky-18)[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-19) Additionally, "Empire State of Mind" saw the largest first-day sales for any *Glee* cover released to that point.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-Rocky-18)

Musical performances in the episode attracted mixed reviews. [*USA Today*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA_Today)'s Robert Bianco deemed the highlight "What I Did for Love", writing that Michele's performance "puts every amateur musical performance on every TV talent show this year to shame."[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-USA-0) Raymund Flandez of [*The Wall Street Journal*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wall_Street_Journal) agreed that it was the best song of the episode, "done with smart aplomb [and] heart."[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-20) In contrast, Mary McNamara of the [*Los Angeles Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Times) called it a "non-sequitur song" which "seemed shoehorned in by Michele's agent",[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-21) Erica Futterman of *Rolling Stone* deemed it touching but unmemorable,[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-RS-22) and Todd VanDerWerff of *The A.V. Club* stated that it was "well-performed", however "so poorly chosen that an emotional moment becomes unintentionally hilarious."[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-VDW-23)

VanDerWerff felt that there were "some odd song choices" throughout, particularly Overstreet's introductory number, which he called "adequate", observing however that it "doesn't do nearly as good a job at introducing his character" as Charice's "Listen".[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-VDW-23) *Entertainment Weekly*'s Tim Stack graded the performance of "Listen" "A+", writing that he wanted to give it a standing ovation.[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-EW-24) Jacque Wilson of [CNN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CNN) praised both of Charice's performances, hoping that she would reappear in the series,[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-25) while Ricky Lo of [*The Philippine Star*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Philippine_Star) discussed [kababayan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kababayan) reception of her role, writing that her singing was "drop-dead stunning" and that she "really made Filipinos proud."[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-26)

[MTV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MTV)'s Kyle Anderson commented that the songs overall were "sharp and well-presented", highlighting the two hip-hop numbers for particular praise. Anderson felt that the choreography of "Empire State of Mind" compensated for any awkwardness in its delivery, and lauded McHale's "unusual swagger" during "Billionaire".[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-27) Lisa de Moraes of the [*Washington Post*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Post) deemed "Billionaire" the best performance of the episode,[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)" \l "cite_note-28) however felt that the "Empire State of Mind" performance was "maybe-trying-too-hard".[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-29) Aly Semigran, also writing for MTV, felt it was lacking the gravitas of the original version, but reported that Keys had deemed the *Glee* cover "amazing".[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-30)

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Audition_(Glee)&action=edit&section=4)] Reception

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Audition_(Glee)&action=edit&section=5)] Ratings

In its original broadcast, "Audition" was watched by 12.45 million American viewers. The episode led in the [18–49 demographic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nielsen_ratings#Demographics) for the night, attaining a 5.6/16 [Nielsen rating/share](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nielsen_ratings#Ratings.2Fshare_and_total_viewers), up 50 percent on the first season premiere, "[Showmance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Showmance_(Glee)" \o "Showmance (Glee))", in September 2009.[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-31)[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-32)[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-33) It was *Glee*'s second-highest rated telecast ever among adults 18–49, and its series high among adults 18–34, attaining a 6.4/20 rating/share.[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-34) In Canada, "Audition" was watched by 2.24 million viewers.[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-35) It was the most-watched programme of the night, and beat [*Dancing with the Stars*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dancing_with_the_Stars), its closest competitor in the 8 pm timeslot, by 170 percent in the 18–49 demographic.[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-36) In Australia, the episode drew 1.23 million viewers and was the seventh most-watched programme of the night.[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-37) In the UK, the episode was watched by 2.999 million viewers (2.486 million on [E4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E4_(channel)), and 513,000 on E4+1), becoming the most-watched show on E4 and E4 +1 for the week, and the second most-watched show on cable for the week, as well as hitting a series high for the show.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-BARB-38)

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Audition_(Glee)&action=edit&section=6)] Critical response

The episode received generally favorable reviews from critics. VanDerWerff graded the episode "A-". He felt it was imperfect, but that "Audition" demonstrated the *Glee* executives had learned "a surprising amount about what does and doesn't work within its format." VanDerWerff concluded "as a season premiere and promise for what's to come? "Audition" is very good indeed."[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-VDW-23) David Hinckley of the [*Daily News*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daily_News_(New_York)) rated "Audition" 4/5. He felt that the episode was "a little self-indulgent" with "a dizzying series of cross-plots", but hoped that it was setting the foundations for an "interesting, evolving story" in the season to come.[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-39) Bianco called the episode a "heady, sometimes-too-rich mix of song-and-dance magic, high school musical spoof and overall excess", summarising: "It's a mess, but it's the kind of joyous mess that makes you think order can be overrated."[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-USA-0) Both Amy Reiter of the *Los Angeles Times* and Jessica Derschwitz of [CBS News](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CBS_News) praised the episode's musical numbers and Sue's lines,[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-40)[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-41) while Stack and Jarett Wieselman of the *New York Post* deemed the episode to have assuaged their worries about *Glee* experiencing a "sophomore slump", commenting positively on the opening scene which directly addressed criticism of the first season.[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-42)[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-EW-24) *Vanity Fair*'s Brett Berk received the episode positively, despite having been disappointed with the second half of the first season,[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-43) a sentiment shared by Futterman, who deemed "Audition" a "fresh start" after "a first season that devolved into a frenzy of too many songs and not enough long-term plot".[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-RS-22)

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| [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/3a/Harry_Shum%2C_Jr._at_Serramonte_Center_2010-08-14_2.JPG/170px-Harry_Shum%2C_Jr._at_Serramonte_Center_2010-08-14_2.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Harry_Shum,_Jr._at_Serramonte_Center_2010-08-14_2.JPG) |  | [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fd/Jenna_Ushkowitz_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg/194px-Jenna_Ushkowitz_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jenna_Ushkowitz_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg) |
| Brittany Drye of *The Stir* highlighted racial issues with the episode, including the romantic pairing of Asian characters Mike Chang (Harry Shum, Jr., *left*) and Tina Cohen-Chang (Jenna Ushkowitz, *right*) | | |

[*TV Guide*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TV_Guide)'s Matt Roush wrote that "Audition" was "far from [his] favorite episode", disliking the "cruelty and dirty tricks" employed by the characters, however commented "the moments that soar remind us why this is a genuine pop-culture phenom."[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-44) James Poniewozik of [*Time*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_(magazine)) called it a "solid" episode, one which was "neither awful nor amazing", but set up promising storylines for the season ahead. He felt there were no stand out musical performances, but commented, "it gave the season some emotional grounding [...] It showed us a *Glee* that's not working double-time to give us everything we want all at once, and that's pretty much what I want from it."[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-45) John Doyle of [*The Globe and Mail*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Globe_and_Mail) wrote that, with "Audition", *Glee* had become formulaic, assessing that "*Glee* fanatics won't be disappointed. The rest of us are."[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-46)

In an overall positive review of the episode, *Hollywood News* opined that the opening scenes which addressed fan criticisms were a little too harsh on the show's fictional characters, having gone overboard to the point of offensiveness. Writer Fred Topel highlighted as a concern the "downright racist" scene ten minutes into the show between Rachel and Sunshine which he could have "done without".[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-HN-1) Meghan Carlson of [*BuddyTV*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BuddyTV) also described Rachel's behaviour in the aforementioned scene as "totally, patronizingly racist".[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-47) Writing for *The Stir*, Brittany Drye asked "Is *Glee* racist?", citing several moments in "Audition" which could be perceived as racist. She found the scene with Rachel screaming at Sunshine in the bathroom in broken English to be distasteful, and also highlighted the pairing of Tina and Mike (noting their shared surname, 'Chang') and the joke of Jacob assuming they are a couple because they are both Asian. However, Drye speculates that in attempting "self-aware racism" the show was intentionally trying to point out the inanity of racist beliefs, concluding that *Glee*'s self-awareness in this matter was its saving grace.[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee)#cite_note-48)

"**The Purple Piano Project**" is the premiere episode of the [third season](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_3)) of the American musical television series [*Glee*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)), and the 45th overall. The episode was written by series co-creator [Brad Falchuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Falchuk), directed by [Eric Stoltz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Stoltz), and first aired on September 20, 2011 on [Fox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company) in the United States. It features the start of a new school year at McKinley High, and for its glee club, New Directions. Members of the club have left, and a recruitment drive is launched to bring the numbers back up. [Blaine Anderson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaine_Anderson) ([Darren Criss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren_Criss)), [Kurt Hummel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt_Hummel)'s ([Chris Colfer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Colfer)) boyfriend, transfers from Dalton Academy to McKinley High, and [Mercedes Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes_Jones) gets a new boyfriend. [Sue Sylvester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sue_Sylvester) is running for Congress.

The episode received mixed-to-positive reviews, with favorable notice being taken of the renewed focus on the core characters, though there was a lack of overall enthusiasm from several reviewers. The subplot with Kurt and [Rachel Berry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Berry) ([Lea Michele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lea_Michele)), and its introduction of Harmony ([Lindsay Pearce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindsay_Pearce)), garnered praise for all three performers. The musical performances were generally well-received, and the "Anything Goes" / "Anything You Can Do" [mash-up](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mashup_(music)) featuring Pearce was widely acclaimed. Five covers were released as singles, three of which charted on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100) and the [Canadian Hot 100](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Hot_100). Upon its initial airing, this episode was viewed by 9.21 million American viewers and garnered a 4.0/11 Nielsen rating/share in the 18–49 age group. The total viewership and ratings for this episode were down significantly from the previous episode, "[New York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_(Glee))".

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| **Contents**   * [1 Plot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#Plot) * [2 Production](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#Production) * [3 Reception](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#Reception)   + [3.1 Ratings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#Ratings)   + [3.2 Social media](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#Social_media)   + [3.3 Critical response](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#Critical_response)   + [3.4 Music and performances](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#Music_and_performances)   + [3.5 Chart history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#Chart_history) * [4 References](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#References) |

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Purple_Piano_Project&action=edit&section=1)**] Plot**

It is a new year at McKinley High. New Directions glee club director [Will Schuester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Schuester) ([Matthew Morrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Morrison)) and guidance counselor [Emma Pillsbury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Pillsbury) ([Jayma Mays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jayma_Mays" \o "Jayma Mays)) are now sharing an apartment and a bed. [Sue Sylvester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sue_Sylvester) ([Jane Lynch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Lynch)), coach of the Cheerios cheerleading squad, is running for Congress but doing badly in the polls. Glee club member [Mike Chang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Chang) ([Harry Shum, Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Shum,_Jr.)) is now a senior, while fellow members [Tina Cohen-Chang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tina_Cohen-Chang) ([Jenna Ushkowitz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenna_Ushkowitz)) and [Artie Abrams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artie_Abrams) ([Kevin McHale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_McHale_(actor))) are juniors. Club co-captain [Finn Hudson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finn_Hudson) ([Cory Monteith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory_Monteith)), a senior, has no idea what to do about his future. [Mercedes Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes_Jones) ([Amber Riley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amber_Riley)) has a new boyfriend ([LaMarcus Tinker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LaMarcus_Tinker" \o "LaMarcus Tinker)); her former boyfriend [Sam Evans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Evans) ([Chord Overstreet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chord_Overstreet)) moved to another state. Three New Directions members have left: Sam, [Lauren Zizes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Zizes) ([Ashley Fink](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashley_Fink)), who also broke up with [Puck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puck_(Glee)) ([Mark Salling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Salling)), and Sam's ex-girlfriend [Quinn Fabray](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinn_Fabray) ([Dianna Agron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianna_Agron)), who has completely reinvented herself with pink hair, a nose ring and a tattoo; she has taken up smoking, and has made friends with a group of outcast girls called the Skanks. She refuses to rejoin either the Cheerios or New Directions.

To recruit new talent, Will places several purple pianos around the school and encourages the club to sing whenever they see one. When Mike and Tina play on one in a hallway, Sue interrupts them by snapping the piano strings with wire cutters, and is praised for doing so by an arts-hating teacher ([Barbara Tarbuck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Tarbuck)), who promises to vote for her. An inspired Sue goes on television and vows that, if elected, she will cut all funding for school arts programs until all students read at or above grade level. She makes [Santana Lopez](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santana_Lopez) ([Naya Rivera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naya_Rivera" \o "Naya Rivera)) and [Becky Jackson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Becky_Jackson) ([Lauren Potter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Potter)) cheerleading co-captains, to their mutual disgust, and gets their pledge to help her sabotage the glee club. After New Directions performs "[We Got the Beat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Got_the_Beat)" in the cafeteria, Becky starts a food fight that targets the club. Following lunch, [Sugar Motta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugar_Motta) ([Vanessa Lengies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanessa_Lengies)) auditions, but cannot sing in tune. An agonized Will eventually rejects Sugar, but gains a new recruit when [Kurt Hummel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt_Hummel) ([Chris Colfer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Colfer)) convinces his boyfriend [Blaine Anderson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaine_Anderson) ([Darren Criss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren_Criss)) to transfer from Dalton Academy.

Kurt and Rachel see Emma about their plans to attend college in New York City. She suggests they consider a top school for the dramatic arts there, and the two of them attend an Ohio "mixer" for students interested in applying. They have rehearsed "[Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ding-Dong!_The_Witch_Is_Dead)", and expect to overawe the other attendees with the performance, but are instead intimidated by their performance of an "[Anything Goes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anything_Goes_(song))" and "[Anything You Can Do](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anything_You_Can_Do_(song))" mash-up led by [Harmony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Harmony) ([Lindsay Pearce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindsay_Pearce)). Although badly shaken, they vow to persevere.

Blaine sings "[It's Not Unusual](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It%27s_Not_Unusual)" to a large crowd in the school courtyard while a growing number of Cheerios, directed by Santana, join in as back-up dancers. As the number is ending, the Cheerios circle the purple piano, and they each sprinkle it with lighter fluid. Quinn flicks her lit cigarette onto the piano, and it bursts into flames. Will tells Santana that because of her sabotage she is banned from New Directions. Rachel breaks up the resulting pity party by singing the opening to "You Can't Stop the Beat", and they all perform the song in the auditorium, while Quinn secretly watches from above.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Purple_Piano_Project&action=edit&section=2)**] Production**

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| [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/df/Harry_Shum_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg/150px-Harry_Shum_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Harry_Shum_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg) |  | [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/15/Darren_Criss_2011_Shankbone.JPG/158px-Darren_Criss_2011_Shankbone.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Darren_Criss_2011_Shankbone.JPG) |
| This episode marks the promotion of Harry Shum, Jr. (*left*) and Darren Criss (*right*) to the main cast from their previous guest-star status. | | |

The first day of filming for the episode was August 9, 2011,[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project" \l "cite_note-Ush-0) though some cast members were called the day before to begin recording musical numbers.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-Michele-1)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-Anders-2) Murphy realized that [*The Glee Project*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Glee_Project) runner-up [Lindsay Pearce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindsay_Pearce) would be ideal for an already-written role in the episode,[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-HR-3) but the filming needed to take place before the project's finale was broadcast on August 21, 2011,[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-4) upon which it would be revealed that she had won a two-episode prize. They "kept delaying" the shoot,[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project" \l "cite_note-HR-3) and "snuck [her] into a soundstage to make sure no one recognized her."[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-LR-5) In aid of this secrecy, her name was omitted from the Fox press release for the episode.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-pressrelease-6) Once Murphy had cast Pearce, he made the musical number she was to appear in bigger.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-HR-3) According to Lea Michele, the filming of the first episode ended on August 19, 2011.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-7)

Returning recurring characters that appear in the episode include ex-glee club member [Lauren Zizes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Zizes) ([Ashley Fink](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashley_Fink)), [Principal Figgins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principal_Figgins) ([Iqbal Theba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iqbal_Theba" \o "Iqbal Theba)), football coach [Shannon Beiste](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shannon_Beiste) ([Dot-Marie Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot_Jones)), cheerleader [Becky Jackson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Becky_Jackson) ([Lauren Potter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Potter)), school reporter [Jacob Ben Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob_Ben_Israel) ([Josh Sussman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josh_Sussman)), and television anchors [Rod Remington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Rod_Remington) (Bill A. Jones) and Andrea Carmichael (Earlene Davis).[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-pressrelease-6) Three new recurring characters were introduced: football player Shane ([LaMarcus Tinker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LaMarcus_Tinker" \o "LaMarcus Tinker)),[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-8) who is the new boyfriend of [Mercedes Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes_Jones) ([Amber Riley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amber_Riley)), Sugar Motta (Lengies)[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-pressrelease-6)[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-LaMarcusTinker-9) and Pearce as Harmony.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-LR-5) Effective with this episode, former recurring guest stars [Harry Shum, Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Shum,_Jr.) as [Mike Chang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Chang) and [Darren Criss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren_Criss) as [Blaine Anderson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaine_Anderson) join the main cast, while [Jessalyn Gilsig](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jessalyn_Gilsig) and [Mike O'Malley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_O%27Malley), who play Will's wife [Terri Schuester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terri_Schuester) and Kurt's father [Burt Hummel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burt_Hummel) respectively, are no longer given starring credits. Gilsig was in the main cast for the first two seasons, and her change had been previously reported.[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-10) O'Malley's had not, but he is listed in the Fox press release for the second episode as being a guest star, his credit in the first season.[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-Ep2-11) [Barbara Tarbuck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Tarbuck) guest starred as Nancy Bletheim, a geometry teacher at McKinley.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-Mean-12)

At the 2011 [San Diego Comic-Con International](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Diego_Comic-Con_International) on July 24, 2011, series creator [Brad Falchuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Falchuk) said that in the first episode of the third season, "The opening sequence is everybody saying what they want to do when they grow up, so you see everyone's anxieties." He also stated, "Come the first episode back, you see who the seniors and juniors are."[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-SDCC-13)

The episode features seven musical cover versions. Two are in the form of a mash-up of "[Anything Goes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anything_Goes_(song))" from the Cole Porter musical [*Anything Goes*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anything_Goes) and "[Anything You Can Do](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anything_You_Can_Do_(song))" from Irving Berlin's [*Annie Get Your Gun*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Get_Your_Gun_(musical)), with the lead sung by Pearce. The other five are "You Can't Stop the Beat" from the musical [*Hairspray*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hairspray_(musical)) and "[We Got the Beat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Got_the_Beat)" by [The Go-Gos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Go-Gos), both performed by New Directions; "[Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ding-Dong!_The_Witch_Is_Dead)" from the film [*The Wizard of Oz*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wizard_of_Oz_(1939_film)) (as performed by [Barbra Streisand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbra_Streisand) and [Harold Arlen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Arlen) from Streisand's [*Duets*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duets_(Barbra_Streisand_album)) album), sung by Michele and Colfer; the [Tom Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Jones_(singer)) song "[It's Not Unusual](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It%27s_Not_Unusual)" featuring Criss; and "[Big Spender](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Spender)" from the musical [*Sweet Charity*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweet_Charity), performed by Lengies.[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-14)[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-15)[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-16) All songs, except for "Big Spender," were released as singles, available for digital download.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-17)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Purple_Piano_Project&action=edit&section=3)**] Reception**

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Purple_Piano_Project&action=edit&section=4)**] Ratings**

"The Purple Piano Project" was first broadcast on September 20, 2011 in the United States on Fox. It garnered a 4.0/11 [Nielsen rating/share](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nielsen_ratings#Ratings.2Fshare_and_total_viewers) in the [18–49 demographic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nielsen_ratings#Demographics), and received 9.21 million American viewers during its initial airing.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-nr-18) It was beaten in its timeslot by the [NCIS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NCIS_(TV_series)) premiere on [CBS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CBS), which garnered a 4.3/12 rating/share in the 18–49 demographic, and also by the premiere of the new show *New Girl* that followed *Glee* on Fox, which brought in a 4.8/12 rating/share and 10.27 million viewers.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-nr-18) The *Glee* numbers were down by over 25% from the season two opener, "[Audition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee))", which was watched by 12.45 million American viewers and received a 5.6/16 rating/share,[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-19)[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-20)[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-21) and down nearly as much from the season two finale, "[New York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_(Glee))", which attracted 11.80 million viewers and a 4.6/11 rating/share.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-NYrat-22)

In the UK, "The Purple Piano Project" premiered on digital subscription channel [Sky1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sky1) with an overnight average of 639,000 viewers (2.8%), down by nearly 50% compared to the overnight rating of the season two finale, "New York", which aired on [E4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E4_(channel)).[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-23)[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-24) Final ratings brought *Glee* up to 1.17 million viewers. It was the ninth-most watched show on cable for the week, down 55% from "New York" and 61% from "Audition", both of which were the top-ranked cable shows in their respective weeks of broadcast.[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-25) The episode's Australian broadcast attained 760,000 viewers, which made *Glee* the twelfth most-watched program of the day,[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project" \l "cite_note-26) although viewership was down almost 30% from the 987,000 viewers of "New York".[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-27) In Canada, 2.10 million viewers watched the episode, where it was the most-viewed show in its timeslot and outperformed its closest competitor by 183% in the 18–49 demographic. It was the tenth most-viewed show of the week, down three slots but up 16% from the 1.77 million who watched "New York".[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-28)[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-29)[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-30)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Purple_Piano_Project&action=edit&section=5)**] Social media**

The night the episode debuted, several topics related to the show appeared in the top ten [trending topics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trending_topics) on [Twitter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter). At one point, *Glee* cast member Kevin McHale tweeted "5 TT's! Woo woo!", indicating that five of the top ten slots were filled by *Glee*-related topics.[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-31) [*The Hollywood Reporter*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hollywood_Reporter), in their story on the online reaction to the show, said that there were four of ten topics claimed by the debut rather than five: "#gleek", "Kurt and Rachel", "Sue Sylvester" and "Warblers".[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-32)

Twitter was also used to advertise the show. To highlight the beginning of the third season and its move to a new channel, Sky was the first company to use Twitter's geographically targeted ad capability in the UK with a "promoted trend" that was displayed on September 22, 2011, the day that *Glee* debuted on Sky1.[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-33)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Purple_Piano_Project&action=edit&section=6)**] Critical response**

"The Purple Piano Project" received a mixed-to-positive response from critics. Jenna Mullins of [*E! Online*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E!_Online) called it "a perfect season-starter of an episode".[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project" \l "cite_note-JM-34) [*The Atlantic*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Atlantic)'s Kevin Fallon appreciated that it tackled some of the show's biggest problems, such as the surfeit of central characters and their previously un-addressed ages. He was particularly pleased that the episode focussed on typical high school life, rather than the adult characters or more serious issues.[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-KF-35) Bobby Hankinson of the [*Houston Chronicle*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston_Chronicle) approved of the "clear trajectory" set out for the characters, and noted that he looked forward to seeing their various storylines develop.[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-BH-36) Though [*AOL TV*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AOL_TV)'s Crystal Bell worried that clarfiying the teenagers' ages could result in the younger characters being overlooked in future episodes, she was glad that the premiere saw the show return to its roots: "underdogs, show tunes and Sue Sylvester."[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-CB-37) A similar sentiment was expressed by Amy Reiter of the [*Los Angeles Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Times), who was hopeful that renewed focus on the core characters would lead to "a great year".[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AR-38) [*The Huffington Post*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Huffington_Post)'s Amy Lee observed that "*Glee* has a tendency to oscillate between sappy and nasty, sometimes without any warning", and opined that "The Purple Piano Project" was more tonally balanced than the majority of the second season.[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AL-39) Anthony Benigno of [*The Faster Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Faster_Times) deemed the episode "admirably straightforward", unmarred by the sentimentality and inconsistencies which plagued previous episodes. His praised was tempered, however, and he wrote, "I wouldn't go so far as to call the episode good, it was oddly lifeless and the stakes seemed almost nonexistent at times. It has the feel of a show rediscovering itself, but, all things considered, Ryan Murphy and Co. handled the task relatively well."[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AB-40)

[James Poniewozik](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Poniewozik) of [*Time*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_(magazine)) took a more negative stance. He wrote that "The Purple Piano Project" "was not a particularly good episode of *Glee*", one which was hindered by the vast number of central characters, "but it did at least suggest where the third season of the show could find its strong core stories, and also ... the numerous ways in which it could get sidetracked into tangential ridiculousness."[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-41) [*The A.V. Club*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_A.V._Club)'s Todd VanDerWerff graded the episode "D+". He summarised it as "a handful of okay performances, one or two pretty good lines, and then a whole bunch of awful".[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-TVDW-42) [*Rolling Stone*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolling_Stone)'s Erica Futterman praised the episode's humor and plot development, but commented that it "didn't hit any of the emotional notes *Glee* is capable of."[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-EF-43) Robert Canning of [*IGN*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IGN) rated it an "okay" 6.5 out of 10. He too found "there were still quite a few laughs to be had", but felt the episode suffered from its repetitiveness, as Sue's hatred of the glee club and New Directions' recruitment problems have been thoroughly explored before.[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-RC-44) [*The Dallas Morning News*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dallas_Morning_News)'s Samantha Urban noted that Murphy failed to deliver on his promise to increase Mercedes and Tina's roles, and couldn't accept that Sue would be allowed to promote her congressional campaign on her local news commentary spot, but overall was "pretty impressed" with what she called "a solid episode of *Glee* that made [her] feel cautiously optimistic about the season ahead."[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-SU-45) Lisa Respers France of [*CNN*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CNN) summed up the episode in a single word: "Meh."[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-LRF-46)

"The episode's most intriguing development ... was the revelation that new characters such as the Aspergers' exploiter and the eccentric, funny, super-talented kids who performed the medley could hold my attention as strongly as the original cast of *Glee*. If Murphy, Brennan and Falchuk are clever enough, they could start integrating new freshmen and sophomores into the existing cast, and make them so lively and distinctive that when the founding characters graduate—as they eventually must—we won't think that *Glee* is overstaying its welcome by continuing to produce new episodes."

Matt Zoller Seitz of [*Salon.com*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon.com) on "The Purple Piano Project" as it bodes for *Glee*'s future.[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MZS-47)

The plot which involved Rachel and Kurt attracted uniformly favorable reviews. Fallon called it "one of the episode's strongest subplots",[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project" \l "cite_note-KF-35) and [*Salon.com*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon.com)'s Matt Zoller Seitz deemed it the episode's "most successful and affecting."[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MZS-47) Bell named Rachel and Kurt as her favorite *Glee* pairing,[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-CB-37) and Futterman wrote that their "friendship has grown from something catty into something genuine and relatable and their interactions are likely the most authentic for any aspiring musical theater performers among *Glee*'s viewers."[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-EF-43) Within his generally negative review of the episode, VanDerWerff noted that the NYADA mixer scene "features some of the best work Chris Colfer and Lea Michele have contributed to the show."[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-TVDW-42) In contrast, the adult storylines were generally poorly received. Zoller Seitz branded Will and Emma's relationship boring,[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MZS-47) and Abby West of [*Entertainment Weekly*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entertainment_Weekly) disliked the fact the season began with them in an established relationship: "I feel like I missed a huge leap for Emma and we need to have it acknowledged."[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AW-48) Fallon disparaged Will as being "insufferable", and attributed this to "Morrison's wooden characterization, the stilted writing [and] the flat purpose that the character serves on the show".[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-KF-35) Sue's storyline was described as nonsensical by VanDerWerff, who wrote that she "has decided to take her crusade against the glee club to a congressional district-wide audience, because, well, she was the most popular character in season one, and she will be again, via blunt force, if necessary."[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-TVDW-42) Reiter, however, found Sue to be "in perfect form in this episode, neither too mean nor too misty", and enjoyed her storyline.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AR-38)

The introduction of Harmony and Sugar garnered critical praise. VanDerWerff wrote that the former "may be the best new character ever",[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-TVDW-42) [*TVLine*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TVLine)'s Michael Slezak said she was "brillantly bought to life" by Pearce,[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MS-49) and Fallon felt that her arrival boded well for the introductions of the other finalists from *The Glee Project*. He said that "she brought, which the best new characters do, fresh and exciting aspects in the show's established leads.[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-KF-35) Zoller Seitz described Sugar as "an entitled little snot", but a "great character" nonetheless, and one he hoped to see more of.[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MZS-47) West praised Lengies' performance and opined that with Sue otherwise occupied, "it'll be great to have another person as a thorn in the Glee club's side."[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AW-48) Not everyone was thrilled with Sugar's advent, however; VanDerWerff called the character "awful".[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-TVDW-42)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Purple_Piano_Project&action=edit&section=7)**] Music and performances**

The episode's musical numbers were generally well-received. Hankinson appreciated that they "felt to proper scale", with a realism which the previous season's "over-the-top" performances lacked.[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-BH-36) Though Benigno criticized the song selection for being too focused on Broadway tracks, which he felt limited its appeal for younger viewers,[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project" \l "cite_note-AB-40) Urban called the choices "outstanding"[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-SU-45) and VanDerWerff commented that the wide range represented progress from season two. He noted that there were no performances he disliked, but found some "shockingly poorly motivated for dramatic purposes".[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-TVDW-42) Canning enjoyed the songs both vocally and visually: "Everything was upbeat, familiar and fun. The dancing was entertaining and most of the performances were group numbers, which added plenty of visual flair."[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-RC-44)

"We Got the Beat" garnered praise for Brittany and Mike's dancing from Lee, though she described the vocals as [AutoTuned](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AutoTune),[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AL-39) a comment echoed by Futterman, who was nevertheless glad that Brittany and Rachel "match[ed] the rawness of Santana's voice".[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-EF-43) Slezak and Benigno were pleased that Morris and Rivera received lead vocals, but while the former commended the number as a great musical start to the season and awarded it an "A" grade,[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MS-49) the latter found it hard to differentiate between the *Glee* cover and the original, observed that it failed to advance the plot, and graded it "C".[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AB-40) Respers France was entirely unimpressed with the routine. For her, Sugar's scene following it was one of the episode's few highlights, although she described Sugar as having "a horrible voice".[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-LRF-46)

Rachel and Kurt's duet of "Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead" made [*Billboard*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billboard_(magazine))'s Rae Votta long for them to share more material.[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-RV-50) It encapsulated everything Futterman wanted in a duet between the two; she observed "it's effortless, charming, full of power musical theater vocals and Rachel gets to channel Barbra Streisand".[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-EF-43) Lee, however, felt the number was an odd choice to demonstrate their talent,[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project" \l "cite_note-AL-39) and although Slezak graded it a "B", he contrasted it negatively with their previous duets.[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MS-49) West opined that the song was too insubstantial and gave it a "B–".[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AW-48) Its highest grade, an "A–", came from Benigno. He noted its lack of significance to the plot and wished that the vocal split had not been so strongly in Michele's favor, but called it "a fun, infectious number."[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AB-40)

Criss's performance of "It's Not Unusual" attracted comparisons to comical renditions of the number in [*The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fresh_Prince_of_Bel_Air), but earned an "A" from West regardless.[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AW-48)[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-RV-50) Fallon said the routine was "embarrassingly enjoyable" and lauded Criss's screen presence,[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-KF-35) and Benigno called it a "wonderful performance", but felt it was hampered by the simplicity of the arrangement and gave it a "B+".[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AB-40) Futterman and Slezak both generally like Blaine as a lead vocalist, but felt the song was not his best: Futterman wrote that "some of the belting felt strained and the energy a little forced",[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project" \l "cite_note-EF-43) and Slezak awarded the song a "B–".[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MS-49)

The "Anything Goes" / "Anything You Can Do" mash-up was widely acclaimed. Respers France named Pearce's performance the best moment of the episode, and found that the character positively reminded her of "*Glee* of old".[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-LRF-46) The song was also a favorite of Lee's, who wrote that the intensity of the actress was perfectly matched to the character's disposition.[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AL-39) West, Slezak and Benigno gave the performance an "A"; the former called it an "outstanding rendition" which "felt like it belonged on a big stage or in a big-screen musical",[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project" \l "cite_note-AW-48) and the latter two praised her vocal talent, which Benigno deemed unequalled on *Glee*.[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AB-40)[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MS-49) Futterman and Bell found Harmony a credible rival to Rachel vocally, and eagerly anticipated future competition between them.[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-CB-37)[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-EF-43) Urban called Pearce's performance merely "serviceable". Though she felt her acting was a weak point, she compared her favorably to season two guest star [Charice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charice) and praised her vocals.[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-SU-45) Criticism came from [*New York*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_(magazine))'s Lindy West, who did not understand Rachel's humiliation, as New Directions "sing way more elaborate and equally competent arrangements four to five times an episode". She elaborated, "This is a thing that drives me crazy about *Glee*. As a viewer, there's no knowing whether a performance was 'good' like 'Anything Goes,' or 'bad' like 'We've Got the Beat,' until Rachel starts crying or some cheerleader starts throwing spaghetti."[[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-LW-51)

"You Can't Stop the Beat" was called a "perfect ending to a perfect season premiere" by Mullins.[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-JM-34) Futterman described it as a "standard *Glee* episode finale, full of inspiration and importance for the future, and catchy as all hell."[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-EF-43) Slezak enjoyed Rachel's slow opening verse, said the full performance "felt a lot like the shiny, happy *Glee* of yore" and gave it an "A–"[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-MS-49) as did Benigno, who also found it a typical final number but was less enthused by the familiarity.[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-AB-40) Votta's only disappointment with the rendition was that the televised version did not include the "adorable duet" between Kurt and Artie that is present on the single.[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-RV-50)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Purple_Piano_Project&action=edit&section=8)**] Chart history**

*See also:* [*Glee Cast discography*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_Cast_discography)

Three of the five cover versions released as singles debuted on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100): "It's Not Unusual" at number sixty-five with 40,000 in sales, "You Can't Stop The Beat" at number sixty-seven, and "We've Got the Beat" at number eighty-three.[[53]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-US-52) On the [Canadian Hot 100](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Hot_100), "You Can't Stop The Beat" charted highest at number sixty-five, with "It's Not Unusual" at number seventy-five, and "We've Got the Beat" at number eighty-three.[[54]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-Can-53) Neither "Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead" nor the "Anything Goes" / "Anything You Can Do" mash-up charted on the Hot 100 in either country, though in the US each track sold 21,000 downloads, and were in second and third place respectively on the Hot 100 "Bubbling Under" chart. Total US sales for the five cover versions were 149,000, compared to 409,000 in sales for the five singles from the season two opener, "Audition", in their first week; for that episode, all five singles made the Hot 100, and charted between numbers twenty-one and fifty-one.[[55]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project#cite_note-54)

GUEST STARS

* [Iqbal Theba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iqbal_Theba) as [Principal Figgins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principal_Figgins)
* [Dot-Marie Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot_Jones) as [Coach Beiste](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shannon_Beiste)
* [Josh Sussman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josh_Sussman) as [Jacob Ben Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob_Ben_Israel)
* [Lauren Potter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Potter) as [Becky Jackson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Becky_Jackson)
* Bill A. Jones as [Rod Remington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_of_Glee#Rod_Remington)
* Earlene Davis as Andrea Carmichael
* [Ashley Fink](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashley_Fink) as [Lauren Zizes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Zizes)
* [Lindsay Pearce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindsay_Pearce) as Harmony
* [Vanessa Lengies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanessa_Lengies) as [Sugar Motta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugar_Motta)
* [LaMarcus Tinker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LaMarcus_Tinker) as Shane Tinsley
* [Barbara Tarbuck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Tarbuck) as Nancy Bletheim
* Caden Michael Gray as Gavroche

## Series overview

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| [**Region 1**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DVD_region_code) | [**Region 2**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DVD_region_code) | [**Region 4**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DVD_region_code) |  |
|  | [**1**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#Season_1:_2009.E2.80.932010) | 22 | May 19, 2009 | June 8, 2010 | September 14, 2010[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-8)[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-TVSOD-9) | September 13, 2010[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-10) | September 22, 2010[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-11) |  |
|  | [**2**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#Season_2:_2010.E2.80.932011) | 22 | September 21, 2010 | May 24, 2011 | September 13, 2011[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-12) | September 19, 2011[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-13)[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-14) | October 5, 2011[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-15) |  |
|  | [**3**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#Season_3:_2011.E2.80.932012) | 0TBA | September 20, 2011 | 0TBA | 0TBA | 0TBA | 0TBA |  |

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_Glee_episodes&action=edit&section=2)] Episode list

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_Glee_episodes&action=edit&section=3)] Season 1: 2009–2010

*Main article:* [*Glee (season 1)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_1))

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No. in series** | **No. in season** | **Title** | **Directed by** | **Written by** | **Original air date** | **US viewers (in millions)** |
| 1 | 1 | "[**Pilot**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_(Glee))" | [Ryan Murphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Murphy_(writer)) | Ryan Murphy & [Brad Falchuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Falchuk) & [Ian Brennan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Brennan_(writer)) | May 19, 2009 (2009-05-19)[[nb 1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-17) | 9.62[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-pilot-18) |
| 2 | 2 | "**[Showmance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Showmance_(Glee)" \o "Showmance (Glee))**" | Ryan Murphy | Ryan Murphy & Brad Falchuk & Ian Brennan | September 9, 2009 (2009-09-09) | 7.30[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-POTUS-19) |
| 3 | 3 | "**[Acafellas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acafellas" \o "Acafellas)**" | [John Scott](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Stuart_Scott) | Ryan Murphy | September 16, 2009 (2009-09-16) | 6.64[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-20) |
| 4 | 4 | "**[Preggers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preggers" \o "Preggers)**" | Brad Falchuk | Brad Falchuk | September 23, 2009 (2009-09-23) | 6.63[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-21) |
| 5 | 5 | "[**The Rhodes Not Taken**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rhodes_Not_Taken)" | John Scott | Ian Brennan | September 30, 2009 (2009-09-30) | 7.40[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-22) |
| 6 | 6 | "[**Vitamin D**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitamin_D_(Glee))" | [Elodie Keene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elodie_Keene) | Ryan Murphy | October 7, 2009 (2009-10-07) | 7.28[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-23) |
| 7 | 7 | "**[Throwdown](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Throwdown_(Glee)" \o "Throwdown (Glee))**" | Ryan Murphy | Brad Falchuk | October 14, 2009 (2009-10-14) | 7.65[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-24) |
| 8 | 8 | "[**Mash-Up**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mash-Up_(Glee))" | Elodie Keene | Ian Brennan | October 21, 2009 (2009-10-21) | 7.15[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-25) |
| 9 | 9 | "[**Wheels**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheels_(Glee))" | [Paris Barclay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Barclay) | Ryan Murphy | November 11, 2009 (2009-11-11) | 7.53[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-26) |
| 10 | 10 | "[**Ballad**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballad_(Glee))" | Brad Falchuk | Brad Falchuk | November 18, 2009 (2009-11-18) | 7.36[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-27) |
| 11 | 11 | "**[Hairography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hairography" \o "Hairography)**" | [Bill D'Elia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_D%27Elia) | Ian Brennan | November 25, 2009 (2009-11-25) | 6.10[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-Zap11-28) |
| 12 | 12 | "[**Mattress**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattress_(Glee))" | Elodie Keene | Ryan Murphy | December 2, 2009 (2009-12-02) | 8.14[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-Ep12-29) |
| 13 | 13 | "[**Sectionals**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sectionals)" | Brad Falchuk | Brad Falchuk | December 9, 2009 (2009-12-09) | 8.13[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-Ep13-30) |
| 14 | 14 | "[**Hell-O**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hell-O_(Glee))" | Brad Falchuk | Ian Brennan | April 13, 2010 (2010-04-13) | 13.66[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-hello-31) |
| 15 | 15 | "[**The Power of Madonna**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Power_of_Madonna)" | Ryan Murphy | Ryan Murphy | April 20, 2010 (2010-04-20) | 12.98[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-32) |
| 16 | 16 | "[**Home**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_(Glee))" | Paris Barclay | Brad Falchuk | April 27, 2010 (2010-04-27) | 12.18[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-33) |
| 17 | 17 | "[**Bad Reputation**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Reputation_(Glee))" | Elodie Keene | Ian Brennan | May 4, 2010 (2010-05-04) | 11.62[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-tuesdayfinals504-34) |
| 18 | 18 | "[**Laryngitis**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laryngitis_(Glee))" | Alfonso Gomez-Rejon | Ryan Murphy | May 11, 2010 (2010-05-11) | 11.57[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-35) |
| 19 | 19 | "[**Dream On**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream_On_(Glee))" | [Joss Whedon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joss_Whedon) | Brad Falchuk | May 18, 2010 (2010-05-18) | 11.59[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-36) |
| 20 | 20 | "[**Theatricality**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theatricality)" | Ryan Murphy | Ryan Murphy | May 25, 2010 (2010-05-25) | 11.49[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-37) |
| 21 | 21 | "[**Funk**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funk_(Glee))" | Elodie Keene | Ian Brennan | June 1, 2010 (2010-06-01) | 8.99[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-funk-38) |
| 22 | 22 | "[**Journey to Regionals**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journey_to_Regionals)" | Brad Falchuk | Brad Falchuk | June 8, 2010 (2010-06-08) | 10.92[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-journey-39) |

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_Glee_episodes&action=edit&section=4)] Season 2: 2010–2011

*Main article:* [*Glee (season 2)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_2))

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No. in series** | **No. in season** | **Title** | **Directed by** | **Written by** | **Original air date** | **US viewers (in millions)** |
| 23 | 1 | "[**Audition**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audition_(Glee))" | [Brad Falchuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Falchuk) | [Ian Brennan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Brennan_(writer)) | September 21, 2010 (2010-09-21) | 12.45[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-40) |
| 24 | 2 | "[**Britney/Brittany**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britney/Brittany)" | [Ryan Murphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Murphy_(writer)) | Ryan Murphy | September 28, 2010 (2010-09-28) | 13.51[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-41) |
| 25 | 3 | "[**Grilled Cheesus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grilled_Cheesus)" | Alfonso Gomez-Rejon | Brad Falchuk | October 5, 2010 (2010-10-05) | 11.20[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-42) |
| 26 | 4 | "[**Duets**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duets_(Glee))" | [Eric Stoltz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Stoltz) | Ian Brennan | October 12, 2010 (2010-10-12) | 11.36[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-43) |
| 27 | 5 | "[**The Rocky Horror Glee Show**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rocky_Horror_Glee_Show)" | [Adam Shankman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Shankman) | *Story by:* Ryan Murphy & Tim Wollaston *Teleplay by:* Ryan Murphy | October 26, 2010 (2010-10-26) | 11.76[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-44) |
| 28 | 6 | "[**Never Been Kissed**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Never_Been_Kissed_(Glee))" | Bradley Buecker | Brad Falchuk | November 9, 2010 (2010-11-09) | 10.99[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-45) |
| 29 | 7 | "[**The Substitute**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Substitute_(Glee))" | Ryan Murphy | Ian Brennan | November 16, 2010 (2010-11-16) | 11.70[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-46) |
| 30 | 8 | "**[Furt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Furt" \o "Furt)**" | Carol Banker | Ryan Murphy | November 23, 2010 (2010-11-23) | 10.41[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-47) |
| 31 | 9 | "[**Special Education**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Education_(Glee))" | [Paris Barclay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Barclay) | Brad Falchuk | November 30, 2010 (2010-11-30) | 11.68[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-48) |
| 32 | 10 | "[**A Very Glee Christmas**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Very_Glee_Christmas)" | Alfonso Gomez-Rejon | Ian Brennan | December 7, 2010 (2010-12-07) | 11.07[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-49) |
| 33 | 11 | "[**The Sue Sylvester Shuffle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sue_Sylvester_Shuffle)" | Brad Falchuk | Ian Brennan | February 6, 2011 (2011-02-06) | 26.80[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-50) |
| 34 | 12 | "[**Silly Love Songs**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silly_Love_Songs_(Glee))" | [Tate Donovan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tate_Donovan) | Ryan Murphy | February 8, 2011 (2011-02-08) | 11.58[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-51) |
| 35 | 13 | "[**Comeback**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comeback_(Glee))" | Bradley Buecker | Ryan Murphy | February 15, 2011 (2011-02-15) | 10.53[[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-52) |
| 36 | 14 | "[**Blame It on the Alcohol**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blame_It_on_the_Alcohol)" | Eric Stoltz | Ian Brennan | February 22, 2011 (2011-02-22) | 10.58[[53]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-53) |
| 37 | 15 | "[**Sexy**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexy_(Glee))" | Ryan Murphy | Brad Falchuk | March 8, 2011 (2011-03-08) | 11.92[[54]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-54) |
| 38 | 16 | "[**Original Song**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Original_Song)" | Bradley Buecker | Ryan Murphy | March 15, 2011 (2011-03-15) | 11.15[[55]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-55) |
| 39 | 17 | "[**A Night of Neglect**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Night_of_Neglect)" | Carol Banker | Ian Brennan | April 19, 2011 (2011-04-19) | 9.80[[56]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-56) |
| 40 | 18 | "[**Born This Way**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Born_This_Way_(Glee))" | Alfonso Gomez-Rejon | Brad Falchuk | April 26, 2011 (2011-04-26) | 8.62[[57]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-57) |
| 41 | 19 | "[**Rumours**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumours_(Glee))" | [Tim Hunter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Hunter_(director)) | Ryan Murphy | May 3, 2011 (2011-05-03) | 8.85[[58]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-58) |
| 42 | 20 | "[**Prom Queen**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prom_Queen_(Glee))" | Eric Stoltz | Ian Brennan | May 10, 2011 (2011-05-10) | 9.29[[59]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-59) |
| 43 | 21 | "[**Funeral**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funeral_(Glee))" | Bradley Buecker | Ryan Murphy | May 17, 2011 (2011-05-17) | 8.97[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-60) |
| 44 | 22 | "[**New York**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_(Glee))" | Brad Falchuk | Brad Falchuk | May 24, 2011 (2011-05-24) | 11.80[[61]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-61) |

### [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_Glee_episodes&action=edit&section=5)] Season 3: 2011–2012

*Main article:* [*Glee (season 3)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glee_(season_3))

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No. in series** | **No. in season** | **Title** | **Directed by** | **Written by** | **Original air date** | **US viewers (in millions)** |
| 45 | 1 | "[**The Purple Piano Project**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Piano_Project)" | [Eric Stoltz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Stoltz) | [Brad Falchuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Falchuk) | September 20, 2011 (2011-09-20) | 9.21[[62]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-62) |
| 46 | 2 | "[**I Am Unicorn**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Am_Unicorn)" | Brad Falchuk | [Ryan Murphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Murphy_(writer)) | September 27, 2011 (2011-09-27) | 8.60[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-63) |
| 47 | 3 | "[**Asian F**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_F)" | Alfonso Gomez-Rejon | [Ian Brennan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Brennan_(writer)) | October 4, 2011 (2011-10-04) | 8.42[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-64) |
| 48 | 4 | "[**Pot o' Gold**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pot_o%27_Gold_(Glee))" | [Adam Shankman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Shankman) | [Ali Adler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allison_Adler) | November 1, 2011 (2011-11-01) | 7.47[[65]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-65) |
| 49 | 5 | "[**The First Time**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_First_Time_(Glee))" | Bradley Buecker | [Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto_Aguirre-Sacasa) | November 8, 2011 (2011-11-08) | 6.91[[66]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-66) |
| 50 | 6 | "[**Mash Off**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mash_Off)" | Eric Stoltz | [Michael Hitchcock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Hitchcock) | November 15, 2011 (2011-11-15) | 7.08[[67]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-67) |
| 51 | 7 | "[**I Kissed a Girl**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Kissed_a_Girl_(Glee))"[[68]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-Ausiello20111025-68) | TBA | TBA | November 29, 2011 (2011-11-29)[[69]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-TFC-69) |  |
| 52 | 8 | "[**Hold on to Sixteen**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hold_on_to_Sixteen)"[[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-Ep8-70) | TBA | TBA | December 6, 2011 (2011-12-06)[[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-Ep8-70) |  |
| 53 | 9 | "[**Extraordinary Merry Christmas**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extraordinary_Merry_Christmas)[[71]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-71)" | [Matthew Morrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Morrison)[[72]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-72)[[73]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-73) | TBA | December 13, 2011 (2011-12-13)[[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Glee_episodes#cite_note-FoxXmas-74) |  |